MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche announced in London that Israel and Lebanon have already formulated "the greater part" of a draft agreement but that there is a growing danger that Syria and the PLO will try to thwart the chances of reaching an agreement, IDF Radio reported. Kimche also said that an agreement to strengthen the Lebanese Army in order to secure Israel's northern border is now under discussion and that Israel is trying to include in it the movement of civilians and trade as well as the establishment of a permanent liaison office in Beirut, according to Jerusalem radio.

A Lebanese Government source cited by Beirut radio complained that Israel has not yet given a decisive answer to the latest U.S. proposals, which "respond to the Lebanese demands." Noting that current discussions focus on security arrangements for the southern border zone, Voice of Lebanon radio said Lebanon proposed that three Army brigades be deployed to ensure security in the south. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that the United States has sent 74 military experts to train the Lebanese Army.

Syrian Commentary -- Syria will agree to anything Lebanon accepts, "provided this would safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and would fend off the dangers menacing Syria's security and the security of the entire Arab nation," TISHRIN announced in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio. Contending that Israel will continue to insist on maintaining a direct military presence in Lebanon even if agreement is reached on the "so-called" withdrawal of foreign forces, TISHRIN said Syria warns against the conclusion of an agreement that would jeopardize its national security, undermine Lebanon's sovereignty, or bring about U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the region.

Israel

President-elect Havim Herzog said he does not view his victory as a defeat for the Begin government and pledged to work for unity within the country, according to an interview with Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said he has no intention of initiating a crisis in the coalition in light of the "failure" in the Knesset, the radio later reported. He told confidants that he still believes the elections should be advanced, but added that this should be done only with the full agreement of all coalition components, the radio noted.

EEC Summit Resolution

EEC leaders reaffirmed their support for Palestinian self-determination, urged the prompt withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and called on Israel to freeze the number of its settlements in the occupied territories, AFP reported citing a communique issued at the concluding session of the 25th EEC summit in Brussels. The communique noted that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza are contrary to international law and constitute a "major and growing obstacle to peace efforts." The EEC leaders urged the PLO and Palestinian people to declare themselves in favor of negotiations and concluded that positions taken during the recent PNC session in Algiers "can and should contribute to the peace process."

PLO Affairs

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, criticized "pressure" placed on the PLO by Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan in coordination with the United States to force it to authorize Jordan's King Husayn to speak in the name of the Palestinians, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Hawatimah

added that the Palestinian revolution cannot "stand idly by" in the face of this pressure, which ignores the will of the Palestinian people.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia must contemplate establishing relations with the Soviet Union, "but at the right time," Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz declared in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH carried by SPA. Asked whether his mediation mission between Iraq and Syria has failed, he said the mission will continue and noted that Saudi Arabia is currently working on "something important" in this connection. Viewing the possible outcome of the Iran-Iraq war, Prince 'Abdallah said Iran "cannot enter Baghdad because that would mean an all-out Arab war with Iran." The Iraqis are in any case "very strong," he said, and the war will remain limited to a border war of attrition until Iran changes its outlook.

The crown prince denied that Saudi authorities recently discovered and arrested members of an opposition military organization, saying that there has been no plot to overthrow the regime since King Faysal's reign and that recent arrests of drug smugglers have been deliberately misinterpreted. He also said reports of Shi'ite unrest in the eastern region are untrue and ascribed such stories to a "pyschological war" being waged against the Kingdom. Asked about the effect of the oil price cut, the crown prince said Saudi Arabia will reduce its pan-Arab financial commitments but will proceed with its 5-year development plan.

Syria

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Presidium Deputy Chairman Temirbek Koshoyev, Damascus radio reported.

Libya

A political statement issued by the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress denounced U.S. "terrorist provocations" against Libya, which took the form of mobilizing U.S. fleets near Libyan shores, and urged the Arab people and their organizations to "answer the U.S. intransigence," JANA reported.

Iraq

Bakr al-Hakim, Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq spokesman, called on Iraqi Kurds not to be deceived by President Saddam Husayn's "new conspiracy" of granting a "false amnesty" to Kurdish draft evaders, according to a statement broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service. The Iranian-backed opposition leader said Iraqi Kurds have a great responsibility in promoting an Islamic revolution against Saddam Husayn's regime.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced President Reagan's 21 March speech on "the day of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan" as a "vain propaganda outcry" and a "new hypocrisy," Kabul radio reported citing remarks to a BAKHTAR correspondent. The spokesman said it is clear that Reagan wants to encourage "counterrevolutionaries" to continue their "barbarous crimes" and undermine the "glorious victories" of the Afghan people and government.

Heavy fighting erupted in Paktia Province when a Soviet-Afghan convoy attempted to break a rebel siege of the strategic Barrai Fort near Pakistan's border town Miram Shah, AFP reported citing Afghan resistance sources. The sources said the rebels shot down one gunship as Soviet aircraft carried out "massive bombing," AFP added. In another development Afghan national airline president Sayed Baba was assassinated in Kabul on 19 March, according to AFP citing Western diplomatic sources.

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'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

GF221741 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with (?Grinevskiy), the Soviet foreign affairs assistant, in Tunis today. Palestinian sources indicated that during this meeting (?Grinevskiy) conveyed to Abu 'Ammar a verbal message from the Soviet leaders dealing with the latest developments in the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue.

The meeting was attended by the PLO Executive Committee chairman, (?the head of the Political Government), and the director of the PLO office in Tunis.

SALAH KHALAF VIEWS JORDAN, ATTACK ON SYRIA

GF221728 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Mar 83 pp 1, 21

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has again rejected authorizing anybody to speak for the Palestinian people and regarded the Fes Arab peace plan as being the maximum limit of the Palestinian stance. He called on King Husayn to negotiate on the bases of the Arab plan and to reject negotiations based on the Reagan plan, which does not recognize the Palestinian right to have a state.

In a statement to AL-WATAN he said that Israel is trying to get the green light from the United States to begin striking at Syria, where it is expected to be hot this spring. Abu Iyad inquired about the reasons behind the concentrated media campaign -- in which some Arab writers are participating -- to pressure the PLO into accepting the authorization of Jordan as a spokesman for the Palestinians and accepting President Reagan's initiative.

Answering a question on the current situation of the Palestinian issue, he said that after the 16th session of the PNC held recently in Algiers and after the resolutions which were issued, the Palestinian stances on various matters are clear. He said: "The persistent question is what do the Arabs want and what does the world want from the Palestinian." He added: "The Palestinians accepted the Arab peace plan, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state and which sets the bases for just and durable peace in the region. Are we required to do more than that? Are we supposed to hoist the capitulation banners so that the world can say we are moderates and realistic? Are we supposed to hail the Camp David accords and go to As-Sadat's grave to apologize and ask for forgiveness?"

He added: "Some tell us we have only 2 months left. Then the United States will enter the election mess and the issue will be lost. The [Gaza] Strip and the West Bank will be lost and further settlements will be erected. Is it then our fate to always remain on the waiting list, waiting for the favors of the White House no matter what kind of favor it is? After this lengthy suffering and all the blood we have shed, are we supposed to approve the Zionist plan? Are we supposed to liquidate the issue, the revolution, and the PLO under the burden of time and U.S. mercy?"

He continued: "I do not believe there is any other leadership in this world that has assumed its right in struggle for a just issue which has made the concessions this leadership has made. Moreover, no other leadership has demonstrated such desirable realism as the PLO. It seems the Palestinians are asked to sell out their issue in order to become realistic:" He said: "We have heard the song about the U.S. election since the era of President Nixon and even before that. The issues of time and elections are still being hammered into the heads of our people. We simply say that the Fes resolutions are the last Palestinian concessions. There will be no authorization because this implies the liquidation and ending the issue. Our people are tired of being tolerant, but this does not imply that they want explotation solutions since they do not accept liquidation of their presence."

On authorization of the Jordanian monarch, he said: "The Western media and some Arab writers concentrate on charging us with being responsible for undermining his upcoming talks with regard to the Reagan plan." He continued: "The peaceful plan which I forsee is that the monarch announces adherence to the resolutions of the Arab summit and calls on the Arabs to back the PLO in its issue in order to preserve the Fes resolutions since they are the sound path."

On prospects of an attack against Syria, Abu Iyad said: "In order to complete its plan in the invasion of Lebanon and in order to complete its plan to make this region fall to its knees, I believe Israel will strike at Syria under the pretext of the presence of the Soviet missiles. All the Israeli contacts with the United States are designed to get the Green light to launch this attack. I expect a hot spring this year and [an attack] against Syria and the Palestinian strength in Al-Biqa'."

DFLP'S HAWATIMAH ASSAILS ARAB PRESSURE ON PLO

JN221822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has denounced what he described as the pressure being placed on the PLO by Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan in coordination with the United States to force it to authorize King Husayn, before the end of next month, to speak in the name of the Palestinians during the upcoming negotiations. Hawatimah added that the Palestinian revolution cannot stand idly by vis-a-vis these pressures which ignore the will of the Palestinian people as manifested in the recent PNC resolutions.

AL-ANBA' INTERVIEWS FATAH'S HANI AL-HASAN

GF221925 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Mar 83 p 25

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by AL-ANBA' correspondent Khalid Muhammad Qatmah in Kuwait "last week"]

[Excerpts] Question: Why do you say that settlement of the Syrian-Iraqi dispute now rests with Damascus and not Baghdad? We have always said that the solution is in the two cities, but you are implying that Baghdad accepts mediation while some in Damascus are not yet convinced of this.

Answer: This is what has been concluded after the efforts by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who has made commendable efforts in this regard with President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad. It has been proved that Damascus, not Baghdad, is intransigent. Besides, the tripartite Syrian-Libyan-Iranian statement verified that the Syrian-Libyan, and the Iraqi, stand has been obstinate.

Question: The PLO is a member of the so-called Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. In fact, nothing remained of this front after Beirut because it was among the victims. Do you believe that if Syria and Libya insist on the tripartite statement, the PLO, or even Aden and Algiers, will agree with the new trend toward accepting Iran in the front?

Answer: It is clear that all PLO parties, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Fatah, rejected Iran's joining the front. The Algerian stand on this issue is also clear and decisive, and so is that of the brothers in Aden. As you know, this is an Arab, not an international front. However, if the Iraqi-Iranian war can be halted and a search begun for a front in which Iran will be a basic party in confronting Israel, we will then all welcome this front, in which the Iranian, Iraqi, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian Armies will fight side by side to prevent Israel's expansion. This, however, is unrealistic.

The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which did not play its historical role during the events in Lebanon, needs to deal with its own situation. So far, it has been unable to convene. Other issues have complicated the resolution of its internal problems. That is why the most important thing for us, the Palestinians, is that we have begun to disregard all the past events, regardless of our losses or gains, for the sake of the normalization of relations with Syria, which will not be subject to hatred or enmity complexes because we cannot call on anybody to halt fighting and express solidarity and understanding with us when we are a party to any inter-Arab conflict. I think future changes and pressures in the region will make the brothers in Syria understand that they should establish wider alliances in our region. If we look at Syria, we find that it has borders with Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan. Turkey and Lebanon are not parties to any such alliances. What remains is the Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian alliance to absorb any future Israeli attempt at expansion.

Question: There has been talk about contacts between Damascus and Amman. Is this true? Do you think these contacts have stopped or are they ongoing?

Answer: No doubt during the activities of the seven-member committee contacts were made between the brothers in Syria and Jordan. However, these contacts have stopped. I believe King Husayn will see where things will lead. On the other hand, the Iraqi-Syrian dispute constitutes the major obstacle between Jordan and Syria because Jordan believes that if Iraq is defeated in its war with Iran, it will be in a great dilemma. According to my experience with King Husayn, he is not the kind of man who changes horses during the fighting. He believes he is with Iraq on the same front. I personally do not rule out a new development in Jordanian-Syrian relations, particularly if King Husayn does not begin unilateral negotiations with the Americans.

Question: Regarding the seven-member committee, things are not clear on its visit and on whether this visit will include Muhammad Milhim or Walid al-Khalidi. This is a great puzzle. What are the latest developments? Will the trip to Britain without the PLO have any particular effect now that the Israeli and U.S. stands on the Fes summit plan have become clear?

Answer: This visit will not have any practical effect. It is a routine visit which will have no effect. If London receives the PLO representative, this will mean progress in the European stand. But now a great retreat will take place because the other European countries will insist on not receiving the PLO representative. Walid al-Khalidi is one of the Palestinians of whom we are proud. But I am not discussing the issue from the point of view of names; I am discussing it from principle. When we insist that the Political Department head be the one to represent the PLO in the committee, this is not for the sake of Brother Faruq Qaddumi; it is for his position and because receiving him means recognition of the political entity of the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Question: Regarding the Fes plan, which is now the axis of Arab moves, I believe there are discrepancies between this plan and the Reagan plan. From the negotiations between King Husayn and Reagan, I learned that Reagan told King Husayn that there is nothing final because his plan is only a beginning. Despite the clear vision and bad experience which you have mentioned, there is a dialogue between the Jordanian monarch and Brother Yasir 'Arafat on going to Washington.

Answer: We are confident of King Husayn's wisdom. He knows very well what is going on. We in the PNC made ourselves clear on the Reagan plan, which does not constitute a sound basis for any dialogue that might lead to the fulfillment of our demands and our legitimate rights. Reagan invited Jordan to join the negotiations with Israel on the basis of his initiative. Reagan pledged to King Husayn that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon will be a starting point, a mark of "good intentions." He said that after this withdrawal from Lebanon Jordan can join the negotiations.

The United States has not done what it pledged from the beginning, that is, achieving Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon by February. We are now in the middle of March. Why do others ask us to consider the scenario before the United States fulfills its pledge as a test of its ability in this issue? Anynow, we have been decisive: "No" on dealing with Reagan as a basis; the only basis is the Fes plan. "Yes" on Palestinian representation. This is very clear. If any dramatic developments take place, they can be discussed and treated on all levels. However, what is important in the beginning is to have a clear Arab stand, because neither the Jordanians alone nor the Palestinians and Jordanians together can do anything so long as there is not a coherent Arab front to back the Jordanians or the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

SPA: HASSAN TO CHAIR ARAB, JERUSALEM COMMITTEES

LD230918 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0813 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Mar (SPA) -- The expanded Arab seven-member committee set up by the Fes Arab summit is to meet in Rabat on Monday under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II to review the results of the visits by the committee to the capitals of the major powers, particularly its recent visit to London.

Moreover, the king of Morocco is to chair a 3 April Rabat meeting of the Jerusalem Committee at the invitation of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to discuss Israeli measures and practices in the occupied Arab territories, especially Jerusalem, and the repeated attempts to violate the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

UAE MINISTER: OPEC FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE TO MEET 18 APR

GF211602 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Mar (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, has asserted that the OPEC followup committee will meet on 18 April to discuss the latest developments in the world oil market in view of the price and production agreement reached by the organization last week.

In a statement to WAM today, Dr al-'Utaybah said the venue of the meeting has not yet been set. He added, however, that the four member ministers are currently holding contacts on the matter.

The committee, chaired by Dr al-'Utaybah, includes the ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

It should be recalled that the committee last met following the recent London meeting during which it was agreed to lower the benchmark price for OPEC oil from $34 to $29 barrel and set the production level at 17.5 million barrels per day to be distributed equally among the 13 OPEC member countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

AS-SIYASAH INTERVIEWS CROWN PRINCE 'ABDALLAH

LD221306 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Mar (SPA) -- 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, head of the National Guard, and crown prince, has given an interview to the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH, which was published today by the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH. In his interview, he deals with a number of important Arab, Islamic, international, and local matters. The following is the text of the interview:

Question: Your Highness: What is happening in the Arab world?

Answer: I have been asking myself the same question. As instruments of government in our Arab world, we always sit together feeling that our visits and whatever else required of us is clear. We ask ourselves: Why do we not implement what we believe in and what is clear before us? Then we find that what has happened was contrary to what we believed in.

I personally believe that there are foreign forces toying with the Arab world. Some have acquiesced to become tools of these forces, wittingly or unwittingly. We sit with those in authority in these countries and find that everything is all right. We ask them to declare this to the Arab peoples and to practice what is logical. Then we find that what is right is not being openly practiced by many. Why is this? This is the question. Believe me, as a man shouldering Arab responsibility -- not only Saudi responsibility -- I feel pained as I see international ambitions achieve their objectives in our Arab world at a time when it is a world whose destiny should be different, and whose conditions should be stronger and better.

Question: Your Highness: Amid these tumultuous currents, how does the Saudi Arabian Kingdom see its position and do these currents have any effect on the society here to the extent that it affects political conditions?

Answer: The Saudi society cannot be isolated from the rest of the world, which presently abounds with many things and characteristics that did not exist in the past. There is rancor. Plots have even been secretly hatched in the past. However, today there are some who officially announce them and publicly declare them, using the excuse that one is plotting against you and that one wants to disturb your national security. However, all these plots have failed to influence the cohesion of the Saudi national front. The conditions of Saudi society differ from those of other societies. We have a society here that feels proud of its faith to such a degree that even those few who are carried away by the currents are attracted by their strong faith.

I have talked with some youths who had been swayed by political currents. We talked together openly. They said that they raise the banner of liberation. However, they themselves began to ask: Liberation from whom? Are there foreign powers occupying the Kingdom? Certainly not. Saudi society differs from other societies. It is preoccupied with many tasks, the most important of which is its responsibility for the safety of the religious sanctities. Many forces have tried to export their political goods to us -- extremist and moderate, and all sorts of goods that flood the Arab political marketplace -- but they discover that their goods are unacceptable to Saudi society. Then they tried to enter a war with us on the level of creeds through their religious extremism. Hence, the incident of the holy mosque. Its color was religious but it had another objective. Those who carried it out might not have been paid but would have been useful to those who want to undermine Saudi national security. Their attempt failed because here faith is above exploitation.

Question: Your Royal Highness: There is talk that a military organization has been recently discovered, which led to some arrests.

Answer: The last attempt witnessed by the Kingdom was that by a political organization during the time of King Faysal, may he rest in peace, and at the beginning of his reign when the Arab world was in turmoil and under tension. After that, the Kingdom did not witness what could be described as a plot to overthrow the regime. There were recently a small number of arrests; however, these arrests were for the crime of smuggling drugs. Those who are interested in giving matters their own interpretations do so according to what they hope for and not according to the truth. Although the Arab world is witnessing a great deal, I can tell you that Saudi society is different from the others.

Question: Your Royal Highness: King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may he rest in peace, was able to carry out a historic deed by uniting the parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Do you believe that his ancestors are able to preserve this structure?

Answer: If history is fair, it will remember that that man did something important in pan-Arab history. I recall that he used to tell us stories about uniting the Kingdom, while we gathered at the tables of plenty that were set as the result of stability. He, King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may he rest in peace, fought alongside his comrades with stones tied around his waist in order not to feel hunger; this is the determination of men. When King 'Abd al-'Aziz was on his deathbed, I tell you that many fears emerged regarding the unity and security of the Kingdom, although conditions then were not the same as they are now, where conflict takes a vicious form full of hatred and rancor. King 'Abd al-'Aziz passed away and he was followed by King Sa'ud, may he rest in peace, and affairs took their course. Here we have a line with its essence, the Islamic faith, and so long as we adhere to it there is no danger. We have no ambitions for power or to create conflicts among the ruling personalities. Each one of us has a role in securing the stability of this country, the service of the people of the Kingdom. The political role of the Kingdom is not only confined to securing the safety of Saudi national interests; the Kingdom has a pan-Arab role and an Islamic role. There are Islamic peoples who feel that they have a role in running the Kingdom. Naturally, our role is to listen to them, implement what is rational in their desires, and give an apologia concerning those matters we believe are impossible. Some Islamic world groups, for example, tell us about our television programs and ask us to cancel some of them. They feel that they have a share in the Kingdom's role as a country responsible for the Islamic holy places. Our position is different from others, hence the men in power here are conscious of this role, which means there is no justification for a successor not to preserve the works of his predecessor.

Question: Your Royal Highness: Some said His Majesty King Fahd was absent from the nonaligned conference owing to a specific domestic situation; others said his absence was caused by the events in Assam in India.

Answer: His Majesty King Fahd actually intended to attend the nonaligned conference and there were no problems at the national security level. Also, I cannot distort the facts and say that the events in Assam were involved. Naturally, King Fahd and I were personally not happy with what happened to the Muslims in the Indian province of Assam. However, King Fahd's absence from the conference was due to previous commitments and engagements.

Question: Your Royal Highness: When you became crown prince, did your working assumptions change, in view of the fact that you were a military man before you became a political man?

Answer: I have been used to political work for a long time. I am one of the higher authorities responsible for studying the economic, political, and military affairs of the state. There were five of us during the life of the late King Faysal, may he rest in peace. The others were Uncle Mus'id ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, King Khalid, may he rest in peace, King Fahd, and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Hence, political experience naturally preceded the title. I have felt the weight of responsibility because the role of the Kingdom is not only a local one; as I previously stated, it plays an immense pan-Arab role and an Islamic role. This post imposed upon me many responsibilities. My country has placed me in a position to face responsibility in an official and open manner. I must accept the challenges of this responsibility.

Question: Your Royal Highness: Some analysts describe you as the hawk of Saudi policy, meaning a permanent opponent, especially with regard to American policy.

Answer: Talk is cheap and analyses are so much hot air. I always say that I will respect anyone who deals with my country as an equal. The dignity of my country must not be harmed. No one works for mutual interests in and of themselves. What is important is that interests should be balanced internationally. I am convinced that the world is the way it is so it can cooperate. This is important: Cooperation must be balanced. Within this context, everything is acceptable.

Question: Your Highness: Do you think that now is the time for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviets?

Answer: The USSR is a great power and I support the establishment of relations with it, but at the right time. We must contemplate doing this. The Soviets now have relations with some Gulf countries as well as with other countries. What has changed? The great powers only give us as much as they can benefit from us. This is a fact. Even in cases where friendship agreements were signed between small powers and great powers, what benefit did the small powers obtain from them when they were exposed to aggression? Nothing. The great powers do their own calculations. We too must have our own calculations. Of course, we are not as strong as these powers, but we cherish our national independence.

Question: Your Highness: In such a climate, do you consider it important for the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to safeguard the continuity of calm on its international front?

Answer: Saudi Arabia is a country that God has favored with great wealth that will reach everyone through social justice, which I believe should be strengthened so the cohesion of the international front can be maintained. Naturally, there is a matter that is above all controversy -- our faith, which is responsible for the protection our Saudi homeland enjoys. Any deviation from it will be harmful. As long as people here adhere to their religion, I believe our country will enjoy the protection of the strongest of powers -- divine protection.

Question: Since you are talking of social justice, Your Highness, may we point out that some people have spoken of troubles in the eastern region caused by the destruction of Shi'ite mosque.

Answer: Nothing of the sort has happened. You can go there and see for yourself. It is all part of the psychological war to which the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has been accustomed. As Saudi citizens, the Shi'ites have the right to enjoy social justice like the rest of the citizens. I have lived through this type of psychological war and rumors, some of which touched upon me personally. I had gone to Iraq on an unannounced visit. A lot was said then about the reason for my absence.

Even a visit I paid to the central hospital for an ordinary check-up was interpreted as the result of a shooting incident. We hear a lot of such talk but it does not affect national security. This because, as I have already told you, the nature of Saudi society differs from that of the others. Indeed, the role of the Kingdom differs from the roles of the others. As we have already heard a great deal, we will fear a lot more. It is important that we adhere to the principles that have enabled the Saudi Arabian Kingdom to safeguard its role even under the darkest and hardest times.

Question: Your Highness: Have your shuttle trips between Iraq and Syria failed?

Answer: Our desire to mediate between Syria and Iraq is not something I only presently entertain. I have had it in mind for a long time. Saudi diplomacy has succeeded in doing a lot for the Arab world. The Algerian-Moroccan rapprochement was a Saudi accomplishment. His Majesty King Fahd was the happiest man because of it. When the Kingdom decided to mediate between Iraq and Syria, I told him to explain to me the reason behind their conflict. I found myself involved in labyrinths of party conflicts. Yet, I went there and I can say that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has succeeded in ending many things that were caused by tensions that were not apparent on the surface. In my opinion, these differences were most essential for clearing the atmosphere. I asked Syria about the tripartite statement that was issued after my last visit to the Syrian capital, and I received the reply. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom is presently working on something important, which cannot presently be divulged. However, it will have a good response throughout the Arab world. The mediation has not ended. As we have succeeded in many past missions, my mission between Syria and Iraq will also succeed.

Question: Your Royal Highness, the Crown Prince: We are still talking about Iraq -- in your view when will the Iran-Iraq war end?

Answer: It seems as though the war is still going on and can only be stopped by God's miracle, but there are people who are saying that the fall of either of the Iraqi or Iranian rulers may solve the question of the war. As for Iraq, there is a popular commitment stronger than ever to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. I have closely watched the Iraqi military front; it is very strong. I have found that there is a very strong cohesion and that the Iraqis are prepared to die in defense of their homeland. The situation on the Iraqi front is good and they have strong weapons. It is difficult for the Iranian side to stop the war because this means that the internal front there will fall apart. The war results in the cohesion of this front at the moment. When Iraq stopped the war [as heard], Iran believed it was a sign of weakness. In my view, when Iraq stopped the war it did so as a result of strength, and Iran did not realize this.

Question: Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince: There are people who believe that the population factor and its density will decide victory.

Answer: This may be true had the war been fought with swords and daggers. Now, the density of fire power alone can settle the issue. Quantity is no longer important; quality is more important. Iraq, as I saw, has a very vast combat capability. This is reinforced by the determination of the Iraqis themselves to defend their homeland and leadership. Proof of this lies in the fact that the vast human forces that were used during the recent Iranian attacks did not enhance the Iranian position.

Question: Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince: Do you believe that [word indistinct] the Gulf states are important for the United States to the extent that the latter will defend them if their independence is endangered?

Answer: As I have previously said, (?and taking into consideration) equality in dealings, the major powers have their own interests and calculations; some of these calculations are declared and some are not -- otherwise, the opposing force would have interfered in Poland. The calculations here are studied. For example, Iran cannot cross the Iraqi border as calculations here say that they would fight to weaken the budgets of the Arab worlds and to weaken the economic situation in Iran [sentence as received].

Question: Let us assume for the sake of argument that Iran entered Baghdad. What then?

Answer: Iran cannot enter Baghdad because that would mean an all-out Arab war with Iran. This is something the big powers do not want because of their own calculations. The war will remain limited to a border war of attrition until Iran's outlook on the nature of things changes.

Question: Your Highness: Do you think the time is now right for the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt?

Answer: Egypt is a sister country and the state of tension with it ended with the departure of the late President Anwar as-Sadat. I believe that if the Arab world is going to ask Egypt to do something impossible, then the time has not yet come for the exchange of ambassadors. However, if the Arab world were to understand Egypt's position and conditions, then I would say the time has come. However, I must say that the level of relations between Egypt and the Arab world is presently good and future steps need only wait for another favorable opportunity when both those who favor the restoration of relations with Egypt and those who oppose it become convinced.

Question: Your Highness: There are some who believe time is running out and that this is not in the interests of the Arabs unless the parties to the conflict with Israel decide quickly.

Answer: Regarding the Palestinian brothers, we do not interfere; the decision is their theirs. We say: Let us review the Arab stands since 1948 and examine their negative and positive aspects. I believe that then we will be able to decide which serve our future.

Question: Your Highness: Let me go back to the question of the war between Iraq and Iran and ask if it poses any danger to the Gulf countries?

Answer: There is no danger to Kuwait or, indeed, to the whole Gulf. Should the war develop, other calculations will come into play. Some of these concern the Kingdom, which would be a party to the defense of its sister countries. This is on the one hand. On the other, there is the GCC, which has imposed itself. This grouping has been one of our objectives since the international interests began to take the shape of groupings and blocs. In my opinion, there is nothing stronger than the linking of interests, the common interests of peoples, as a means for political unity. We must preserve this grouping of the countries of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. We must bolster it. I know there are some who want to drop the idea and destroy the cooperation it was established, some tried to play up [nafakh] the question of a security agreement and tried to create disputes over it as a way to begin influencing this grouping. However, King Fahd was wise where he respected the ideas of Kuwait, which is an important Gulf country.

He respected Kuwait's objections to some of the security agreement provisions in order to thwart the opportunity by those who tried to depict the agreement as one discarding popular historical gains. I ask you: What gains can be made in the matter of the exchange of criminals, whether here or there? This is something good: When we differ in opinion, we sit and discuss the disputed points. I was glad when the discussion of the security agreement was postponed until we reach common grounds. We respect the views of Kuwait, which is an important country, and thus we thwart those who want to use it as the straw that broke the camel's back. The idea of the GCC is a great one and the results of this cooperation will have far-reaching effects, not only no cooperation among us but also in keeping our region apart from world conflicts and wars. All we need is balanced treatment.

Question: Your Royal Highness, what do you believe are the distinguishing characteristics of King Fahd's rule?

Answer: Without doubt, during the period between King 'Abd al-'Aziz and King Fahd there have been many changes. King 'Abd al-'Aziz carried out a gigantic step when he united the tribes of the Kingdom and linked them in this huge geographic area. The changes were great and many. His Majesty King Fahd now shoulders the hopes of the new generation. Our society is open to all. Modern technology has placed us at the center of the world, moreover it has placed the world at the center of Saudi Arabia. In the eastern region they watch Gulf television stations and will be able to view all stations soon when the Arab artificial satellite becomes operational; all Arab television stations will be seen here in Riyadh. Scientific progress has made us much closer. Hence, the changes are many and comparison between what exists at present and what should exist is a very delicate balance. However, King Fahd is capable of deciphering its symbols. Attention is now being paid to industry and agriculture and the search for an alternative or a parallel to the oil resources. The factories of Al-Jubayil region arouse fear in the worlds oil industry because they are very advanced factories compared with similar factories in the Western world. Factories in the West employ thousands of workers and those in Al-Jubayil employ a small number of workers. This means production cost for processed petroleum products will be small compared with similar factories in other countries. The people here are ambitious. Government-built industries contain the latest developments in computers. Naturally, there is a great deal facing King Fahd to do for this country. He realizes this. Our road network is absurd; Saudi Arabia is a huge continent and is not only Riyadh or Jidda. If you visit the other regions you will see that much has been done and much that will be done.

Question: Your Royal Highness, tell me about an important topic, namely, Saudi Arabia's oil income. It is said it has been reduced by 40 percent because of reduced production and the cut-back in prices. Has this had an effect on your Arab and international commitments?

Answer: Naturally, our income has been reduced. However, if the recent agreement is followed by all -- I mean by all the OPEC countries, the assessment of our experts is that the crisis will ease within 4 months. As for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we are capable of living with a quantity not exceeding 1 million barrels a day. However, Saudi Arabia has strong international commitments. And in this situation and because of the fall in Saudi income, the country will reduce its pan-Arab commitments. However, it is not a large fall and we will continue to fulfill our commitments in a normal manner. Our 5-year plan will not be affected -- it will proceed within its program. There are development projects that will be transferred to future budgets. Saudi Arabia will not be affected by what has happened because, naturally, it has its reserves.

Question: Your Royal Highness, I wonder what will happen if the OPEC agreement fails and a price war starts?

Answer: Saudi Arabia is fortunate that significant civil services projects, such as ports, airports, road and telephone networks, etc., have been completed. If we halt some of our projects and reduce our pan-Arab and international commitments, we can live by pumping a limited amount of oil. Saudi Arabia is capable of settling the price war to its advantage. But we do not want to do this. I believe the recent agreement can be implemented in a very good manner because none of the OPEC members will gain from a price war; even the other oil producing countries outside OPEC will suffer from a price war if it takes place.

Question: Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince. What about your story with the National Guard?

Answer: During the lifetime of King Faysal, may God have mercy on his soul, he gave me the choice between the Ministry of Defense and the National Guard. I chose the latter on condition that the government would adopt a development plan for the National Guard. When I came to the National Guard, the number of personnel was very small; most of the men were from the mujahidin who fought with King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God have mercy on his soul. Now, the National Guard is a force that possesses the most modern weapons. Some of these weapons that appeared during the recent exercises have not yet even been put to service in the U.S. Army. You ask me about the aims of the Guard and I would like to say that the Guard supports the army in the protection of our faith. The National Guard personnel have been chosen from the best people of Saudi Arabia. The subjects that are taught to the National Guard personnel are not confined to military subjects; there are other subjects concerning humanities. The military college teaches not only military subjects but all subjects. I have lived with the development of the National Guard and I know each of the officers of the National Guard personally. The National Guard is a national force whose aims are known and declared and not secret.

Question: Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince: There are people who believe that the National Guard is a military grouping against the army for the protection of the political regime?

Answer: The aims of the National Guard are declared and are known. The National Guard supports the army when the state is endangered. The Saudi National Guard is not the only guard in the world; there are other states that adopt this type of military force structure under different names. Any individual in the National Guard is a member of a family working in the army. Therefore, to say that the National Guard is against the army is unjustifiable. The important thing is that the army has been able to build its military strength and that the National Guard is a supporting force.

Question: Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince: You seem to talk about the Gulf states as if you have visited them and according to my information you have not. Do you intend to visit these states, which are emphasizing the necessity of establishing cooperation among themselves?

Answer: Certainly, observing these countries from a distance is not the same as personally seeing them. I had visited Kuwait a long time ago. Yesterday, I received an invitation from His Highness the Heir Apparent of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah to visit Kuwait. This invitation has strengthened our desire to visit the Gulf states. I believe that the time is suitable for such visits because such a meeting will enhance our views regarding future aims. Yes, I will visit Kuwait and all the Gulf states. This will not be only a courtesy visit; it will be a visit to see them at close quarters and to live with them.

PDRY

SOVIET DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES 22 MAR

GF221841 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Comrade Flight Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the naval forces, arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to our country that will last several days. He was received at the airport by Brother Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff; Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister; 'Ali Mansur (?Rahim), deputy chairman of the State's Security Committee; Brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Wasi' Sallam, deputy interior minister; and a number of armed forces commanders.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Gorshkov expressed his happiness over his visit to the PDRY. He said: Our visit is to bolster and expand the existing relations between the armed forces of our countries and to further solidify PDRY-Soviet relations within the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between the two countries. Concluding his statement, Comrade Gorshkov conveyed his warm greetings and the greetings of the Soviet Armed Forces to the PDRY forces and the Yemeni people.

SECRETARY GENERAL PRAISES USSR, ATTACKS U.S.

GF221853 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today met with the soldiers and the officers of the command of the eastern sector during his inspection tour of Ma'arah Province. He gave them an important lecture on the stages of the development of the armed forces in the post-independence stage. He lauded the honest backing of the Soviet Union which participated in the buildup of our armed forces. He said: We define our allies as those who not only provide us with weapons and backing, but who also support the struggle issues of our Arab peoples against imperialism and Zionism.

Regarding the situation in the region, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad talked about the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean which threatens the safety and security of the people of the region. He reiterated the PDRY's desire to have understanding prevail in the relations among the region's countries, which serves the interests of our peoples, their security, and stability. He noted that the efforts exerted by the PDRY to normalize relations with Oman indicate its desire to maintain security and stability in the region. He said that U.S. imperialism and its agents are against normalization and referred to the U.S. military maneuvers as evidence of this. The brother secretary general stressed our country's desire to ensure peace, security, and stability. He indicated that those who try to pressure us through various allegations have to realize that we are rich in our principles and strong in our stances and will not abandon an inch of our territories.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed that those who threaten the peace and security in the region are the imperialists, not the Soviets as others claim, since the Soviet Union has no interests in our region. He also indicated that with Soviet weapons, our people defended the 26 September revolution against its enemies and also defended the 14 October revolution. Moreover [with Soviet weapons] the Arab people fought the 1967 war, and the 1973 war, and the Palestinian revolution demonstrated steadfastness against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the U.S. weapons of destruction.

MUBARAK, EANES HOLD FINAL TALKS IN CAIRO

NC230927 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) -- The second and last session of talks began at 0930 today between Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah.

This session of the Egyptian-Portuguese talks lasted about 1 hour and dealt with changes in the international political scene, the Middle East problem, and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. The session also dealt with means to bolster relations in the political, economic, cultural, and tourist domains between Egypt and Portugal. After the session, President Husni Mubarak accompanied Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho dos Santos Eanes and his wife to Cairo international airport to see them off.

AMBASSADOR VIEWS MUBARAK'S FORTHCOMING PRC VISIT

NC211608 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The Chinese ambassador in Cairo has stated that the government and people of China are looking forward to President Husni Mubarak's visit to China, which will take place from 1 to 4 April. In a special statement to the radio correspondent, he said that China is confident that President Husni Mubarak's visit will lead to the consolidation of relations between the two countries. He added that President Mubarak will hold talks with the chairman of the State Council and will meet with Chinese leaders. He said that the subjects which will be discussed during these talks will include the international issues of interest to the two countries, bilateral relations, and the means to strengthen them in the various spheres.

The Chinese ambassador praised President Husni Mubarak, describing him as a old friend of the Chinese people. He said that President Mubarak's visit to China is the third by his excellency, but it is considered the first visit by an Egyptian president since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the Chinese ambassador in Cairo and reviewed the relations between the two countries and subjects pertaining to President Husni Mubarak's visit to China. This visit will take place at the start of a tour during which he will visit China, the CPRK, Japan, and Indonesia.

GREECE PROTESTS PLANNED EXPULSION OF BISHOPS

NC211430 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 21 (AFP) -- Five Greek Orthodox bishops have been ordered to leave Egypt before Saturday, informed sources said here today. They said the Greek Consulate had filed a protest with Egyptian authorities over the move, but that the protest was not answered. No reason was given for the expulsion orders, the sources added.

The bishops were identified as Dhionissioss, metropolitan of Memphis, Filimon of Filimon, Khrisostomos of Nikopoleos, Theoklitos of Heliopolis -- who is also vicar of the Patriarchate of Alexandria -- and Irodhotos of Babylon. At least two of them, Bishop Dhionissios and Bishop Khrisostomos, were born in Egypt, the sources said. They were told of the expulsion orders Saturday by Interior Ministry officials, who did not explain the measure.

Ghali Comments on Expulsion

NC222306 Paris AFP in English 1922 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (AFP) -- The Egyptian authorities have ordered five Greek Orthodox bishops to leave the country acting on a request from the Greek church, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said today. The five bishops were on Saturday ordered by the Egyptian Interior Ministry to leave Egypt before the following Saturday. At the time no explanation was given although Mr Ghali said that the Foreign Ministry had today explained the reasons to the Greek ambassador here.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Alexander Nicolas VI is at present unavailable in the Soviet Union where he is undergoing medical treatment. According to unconfirmed rumours here there were differences between the patriarch and his bishops chiefly over the question of the management of church funds.

The Greek Orthodox community in Egypt which numbers between 10,000 and 20,000 members could be left at least temporarily without leadership if the expulsions are confirmed.

GHALI SAYS NEW SETTLEMENTS VIOLATE CAMP DAVID

NC221531 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has made a statement to our correspondent commenting on the Israeli Government's decision to establish eight new settlements in the West Bank. He said that this measures is considered as unlawful and as contravening the UN resolutions, the rules of international law, and the Camp David agreements, which provide for holding negotiations with the parties concerned and which declare the inadmissibility of creating demographic changes in the West Bank during the negotiations.

Ghali said that Israel's decision to establish these settlements comes at a time when contacts are under way to activate the Palestinian question in order to overcome the obstacles and to implement President Reagan's initiative. Therefore, the establishment of new settlements by Israeli indicates that it does not want peace or negotiations. He expressed Egypt's regret over this serious measure which threatens peace in the Middle East.

GHALI DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST RELATIONS

NC231100 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 21-27 Mar 83 pp 54-56

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by MONDAY MORNING journalist Lydia Georgi; Ghali's answers submitted "in writing" and "in English 6 days after the Seventh Nonaligned Summit in India"]

[Text] [Question] The White House and the State Department held intensive talks with the foreign ministers of Lebanon and Israel this week on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, but produced no public evidence of progress. How does this affect the prospects of overall peace in the region?

[Answer] We hope that those talks will give a new momentum to the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, which in turn would result in an agreement on the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli and other foreign troops from Lebanon.

[Question] Why has Egypt agreed to resume talks with Israel on bilateral relations (frozen because of the Lebanon invasion) while Israeli forces are still in Lebanon?

[Answer] Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel was recalled to Cairo. He will not return to Tel Aviv as long as the Israeli troops remain in Lebanon.

But bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel were not suspended. Accordingly, the talks which were held lately between the two countries dealt with their bilateral relations. Egypt is determined to respect its obligations in accordance with the international agreements to which it is a party.

[Question] What were the results of President Mubarak's contacts with Arab leaders in New Delhi last week?

[Answer] President Mubarak had very constructive and positive talks with the Arab leaders. They clearly indicate that inter-Arab disputes and contradictions are of a temporary nature and that Arab brotherhood, solidarity, and unity will always prevail.

[Question] What is the state of Egypt's relations with other Arab countries at present (notably Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon)? Are you expecting to resume formal ties with any of them shortly?

[Answer] Egypt's relations with Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon are very good and there are continuous consultations between Egypt and each of them. Egypt would be most willing to resume its diplomatic relations with these and other Arab countries. However, since Egypt was not the one which severed diplomatic relations, it is for the Arab countries to explicitly express their wish to resume their diplomatic relations with Egypt.

[Question] President Mubarak has accused the PLO of meddling in the internal affairs of Egypt, and the PLO has answered by accusing Egypt of interfering in Palestinian affairs by signing the Camp David accords. Do you think the PLO's charge is justified? And how would you describe current Egyptian-PLO relations?

[Answer] Egypt has never conceived of interfering in Palestinian affairs. The Camp David accords stipulate transitional arrangements for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, subject to Palestinian approval, which would ultimately enable the Palestinian people to assume full responsibility to decide their own future.

On the other hand, the Algiers declaration, issued at the end of the Palestine National Council's meetings, is obviously an interference in Egypt's internal affairs. In spite of this diplomatic blunder, which has undoubtedly restrained relations between Egypt and the PLO, we sincerely hope that relations between the two will soon return to normal, allowing Egypt to continue its full support of the PLO and defense of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

[Question] How does Egypt expect the Middle East peace process to develop over the coming months? Will King Husayn join the talks? Can the U.S. squeeze concessions out of Israel?

[Answer] We hope that Jordan and the PLO will reach an agreement defining their future relationship and allowing for their participation in the peace process. This would be a great boost to the peace process and would certainly encourage the U.S.A. to continue its efforts in search of a comprehensive settlement.

[Question] How did Egyptian leaders and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter assess the successes and failures of Camp David to date when he visited Cairo earlier this month, and how do you interpret the hostile reception he was given later in the occupied territories?

[Answer] The Camp David accords succeeded in bringing about the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the resumption of Egypt's exercise of sovereignty over it, but they failed to achieve a similar withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of a self-governing authority as a transitional arrangement. This failure may explain the hostile reception which the people of the occupied territories gave former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

[Question] Egypt appeared to be embarrassed by America's reaction to recent reports of a Libyan threat to Sudan (sending AWACS to Egypt). At the same time, there are signs of a thaw in Cairo-Moscow relations. Is Cairo trying for a more balanced relationship with the superpowers?

[Answer] Egypt is in favor of balanced relations with the two superpowers. This is in conformity with the principles of non-alignment and would reinforce Egypt's role in the Non-aligned Movement, which in turn would contribute to the maintenance of peace in the world at large.

With regard to your question about Libya's threat to Sudan, Egypt condemns Libyan adventurism in Sudan, with which Egypt has concluded a mutual defense agreement.

[Question] Does President Mubarak's Cabinet reshuffle point to any shifts in policy, either domestic or external?

[Answer] Certainly not. Egypt's domestic and external policies are based on principles which have been adopted and incorporated in the Democratic National Party's program. Its policies are based on principles, not on individuals.

NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BELGIUM

NC221541 Cairo MENA in English 1510 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA) -- Egypt and Belgium signed today a technical cooperation agreement on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

According to the accord, the Belgian Government will hold training courses for Egyptian technicians and employees on setting up, operating, and maintaining nuclear-powered generating stations in similar Belgian nuclear stations.

The agreement also stipulates scientific cooperation in the use of radio-active isotopes for medical, industrial, and agricultural purposes and the offering of small nuclear reactors for various research reasons. The two countries agreed to set up a joint system for cooperation in the domains of nuclear security, protecting environment in the vicinity of the nuclear-powered generating stations, and laying a programme for planning, regulating, and collecting data pertaining to these stations.

Minister of Power and Energy Mahir Abaza, said the Belgian Government has signed this accord with Egypt out of full confidence in the seriousness of the Egyptian nuclear programme pertaining to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Egypt has an ambitious programme for establishing eight nuclear-powered generating stations, to cover 40 per cent of Egypt's needs of electricity till the year 2000, which is the date fixed for the completion of this programme Abaza said.

The Egyptian minister said a joint Egyptian-Belgian committee is to be formed to convene in the two countries rotationally, to review the implementation of the agreement and coordinate bilateral cooperation.

SAL M HOLDS MEETINGS ON U.S. PROPOSALS

NC211922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening met with Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who briefed him on the results of his talks in Washington, London, and Paris.

Minister Salim later presided over a meeting of the staff of the political operations room and the Lebanese negotiating delegation during which a review was made of the proposals submitted in today's negotiating session in Netanya.

The foreign minister earlier, at 2000 today, met with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib at the house of the U.S. ambassador in Al-Yarzi. Also in attendance were Ambassador Draper and Christopher Ross. Minister Salim was briefed by Ambassador Habib on the Israeli response to the U.S. proposals.

AL-JUMAYYIL REVIEWS WASHINGTON TALKS 22 MAR

NC221027 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] At 0700 today President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting at the Republican Palace attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, coordinator general of the negotiations Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, presidential adviser Dr Wadi' Haddad, Army commander General Ibrahim Tannus, and head of the Lebanese delegation to the tripartite negotiations Dr Antoine Fattal.

The conferees appraised the current situation, the results of the Lebanese delegation's talks in Washington, and the mission of U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib, who returned to Beirut yesterday afternoon.

The meeting, which President al-Jumayyil left for a while, was joined by the U.S. delegation which includes Ambassadors Habib and Morris Draper and Christopher Ross. The president resumed his chairmanship of the meeting a short while later.

The president then held a separate meeting with Ambassador Habib, who left the Republican Palace at 1100 together with Draper and Ross.

President al-Jumayyil is now chairing a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body.

Al-Wazzan, Salam Review Talks

NC221043 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said today he has reviewed with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam the current questions and added that this delicate phase calls for consultations with Salam, particularly following the mission he carried out in the U.S. capital, because there are many things that should be discussed.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan visited Salam at 0900 and met with him for 30 minutes during which he was briefed on the outcome of Salam's talks in Washington.

MILITARY NATURE OF NEW U.S. IDEAS NOTED

NC221948 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the efforts being made by U.S. presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib between Lebanon and Israel are focusing primarily at present on the security of the south, [word indistinct] and prevention of Palestinian or Palestinian-supported infiltration.

Well-informed sources say that the discussion of the new U.S. ideas, which have been raised as alternatives acceptable to the Lebanese and Israeli sides, are mostly military and pertain to the delimitation of the security zone and the types of weapons which can be used in it.

The radio reporter has learned that Lebanon has proposed the deployment of three Lebanese Army brigades to ensure security in the referent zone.

The reporter adds that one of the 15 points raised for discussion includes coordination between the Lebanese and Israeli army intelligence to combat infiltration. In case the two states reach agreement, Lebanon would maintain its sovereignty and no Israeli military presence would be maintained inside Lebanese territory.

The same sources pointed out that there is a point which is still the subject of negotiations. It is Israel's demand to run patrols within southern Lebanon from time to time for a temporary period.

NO 'DECISIVE' ISRAELI ANSWER TO U.S. PROPOSALS

NC222148 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The U.S. presidential envoy, Philip Habib, continues his shuttle trips between Lebanon and Israel as part of his consultations with the officials of the two countries to achieve an agreement on a final solution for the withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon. Meanwhile, a government source explained that Ambassador Habib has returned to the area equipped with a new set of U.S. ideas and convictions that will serve as the basis for the contacts that the U.S. envoy will hold with the Lebanese and Israeli sides.

A government source stressed Lebanon's dedication to the achievement of a solution that would preserve Lebanon's dignity and national sovereignty and that would reject anything that would conflict with these two principles.

The source called attention to the critical phase that is confronting Lebanon and to the improtance underlying the rallying of all the Lebanese groups around the government to face this critical phase. It is known that Lebanon is not captive to any side when it comes to the solution of its issue. Lebanon is moving in all directions and is taking all options to end the occupation, the source said. This source added that, while Lebanon realizes the value of the U.S. moves in its favor, Lebanon knows that these moves do not constitute any partiality, but an understanding of Lebanon's rights: one should also take into account that the United States wields significant potential that can accelerate the achievement of a sclution.

Concerning the Israeli attitude toward the security arrangements, the source said that Israel has hitherto not given a decisive answer to the U.S. proposals, an answer that would indicate that Israel has changed its past convictions regarding the conditions which Israel deems appropriate for the protection of its border in accordance with the method which it has forwarded. In contrast, the government does not accept itself becoming a captive of the Israeli convictions, bearing in mind that Lebanon also wants to protect its border like any free and sovereign country in the world.

The source revealed that Israel made demands at the previous sessions of negotiations and then backed off these demands, only to make more demands.

The source emphasized that the government is determined that, in Lebanon, there will be no illicit force whatsoever in any area. On the other hand, the source denied that the U.S. ideas brought by Ambassador Habib imply compromises. The source said that these ideas, or U.S. convictions, respond to the Lebanese demands. Furthermore, Lebanon cannot accept any compromises, particularly when it comes to its security and sovereignty.

AL-JUMAYYIL ON LEBANESE ARMY'S CAPABILITY

NC221420 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Report by Joe Sa'adah from Republican Palace -- live]

[Text] President al-Jumayyil today chaired the meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body in the presence of the ambassadors of the states participating in the multinational force.

Today's meeting focused on the Lebanese Army and the multinational force. President al-Jumayyil expressed his feelings of sympathy with the international units which were recently subjected to attacks. He thanked the states participating in the force for their eager interest in carrying out their responsibility in the best possible manner.

President al-Jumayyil spoke about the effective Lebanese presence in Washington through the tour which was made by presidential envoy former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim heading a high-level Lebanese delegation. The president praised the positive results which the delegation has achieved at the level of inducing U.S. decisionmaking centers thus foiling Israel's attempt to monopolize the U.S. decision.

President al-Jumayyil discussed the question of building up the Lebanese Army and said: We are not building, and do not want to build, a suppressive army. We are building a national army supported and called for by the people. There is no room for a comparison between the army we are building and any occupation army. To maintain security, the national army needs less than one-tenth of that required by any occupation army to impose security. If casting doubt on the Lebanese Army's ability is based on making a comparison between it and foreign armies, our army possesses the fundamental element for its existence, namely the Lebanese people rallying around the Army and the people's rejection of any foreign army just as they reject all occupation armies.

President al-Jumayyil added: There is continuing interaction between the Lebanese Army and the people. The south is longing for the national Army to enter its area and the people in Al-Biqa' demand the Army's deployment while the north is awaiting the Army impatiently. The Army has set an example in Beirut of its work throughout the homeland.

It is known that President al-Jumayyil views the Army as belonging to all Lebanon, from all Lebanon spread out throughout Lebanon. The Army is the homeland's community and party and it is above communities and above parties.

President al-Jumayyil likewise wants to build an army that will strike at terrorist, sabotage, and subversive activities, not an army to suppress the citizens but one that is strengthened by being supported, backed, and nourished by the citizens.

Finally, President al-Jumayyil praised, on behalf of the Lebanese Government and on his own behalf, the coordination between the Lebanese Army and the multinational force expressing the hope that such coordination will further develop in the near future.

Defends Army's Ability

NC222208 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Government sources today drew attention to the critical phase through which Lebanon is passing and called on all Lebanese groups to stand alongside the government to firmly check anything tending to harm Lebanese dignity and national sovereignty.

These sources have emphasized that the government is determined that, in Lebanon, there will be no illicit force in any area. On the other hand, and concerning the Lebanese stand on the security arrangements, these sources said that, up to this time, Israel was not given a decisive answer to the U.S. proposals -- and answer that would indicate that Israel has changed its convictions concerning the conditions that it deems appropriate for the protection of its border in accordance with the method that it had forwarded.

These sources have revealed that Israel made demands at the past sessions of negotiations and then retracted these demands, only to make more demands.

These sources believe that this state of affairs is connected with domestic Israeli issues and is aimed at achieving some gains, in light of the fact that the security arrangements and conditions which Israel is demanding in the south cannot protect Israel's security. This is proved by the fact that the Israeli army itself has been unable to read off the military attacks that have been launched against the south and that have not ceased since the overrunning of Lebanese territory. In contrast, the Lebanese Army has succeeded in achieving and ensuring security in the areas in which the Army has been assigned with maintaining security. This is precisely the point noted by President al-Jumayyil today, when he affirmed that it is inadmissible to compare the building of a national army with any occupation army in the world. The president was answering the attempts that are being made to cast doubt on the ability of the Lebanese Army. The president made this point during his meeting with the political committee of the higher liaison body.

HADDAD: UNITED STATES STAYING 'FOREVER'

NC231130 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Responding to a report published in the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN that Syria opposes any Israeli or U.S. presence in Lebanon, commander of free Lebanon Major Sa'd Haddad made the following statement:

We tell the Syrian rulers and their mentor Russia that Israel is present in Lebanon and that the Americans are remaining forever in Lebanon where they will establish a forward U.S. base to combat Soviet influence in the Middle East and, probably, to strike [darb] Russia from Lebanon. Therefore, we ask the Syrian rulers to go and "till the sea" and to desist from making useless riffraff statements.

The newspaper TISHRIN said today that Syria declares its opposition to U.S. presence in Lebanon following the withdrawal of foreign forces from it.

SWEDISH DEFENSE MINISTER THUNBORG PAYS VISIT

NC191809 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg has arrived in Beirut from Larnaca for a visit of a few days. During his stay in Lebanon he will meet with Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. On Monday, he will go to An-Naqurah to inspect the UNIFIL contingent. The Swedish minister made no statement on arrival at the airport.

Meets Defense Minister Khuri

NC202020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Following a meeting tonight with his Swedish counterpart, Anders Thunborg, Minister of Defense 'Isam Khuri said that Sweden agrees with Lebanon on an extension of the mandate of the international peacekeeping forces in the south. Minister Khuri pointed out that he affirmed to the Swedish minister the necessity of giving the international forces in the south a more effective role.

Confers With Al-Wazzan

NC211046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today met with Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg and reviewed with him the conditions of the Swedish contingent with the UN emergency force and its additional tasks as well as the progress of the tripartite negotiations.

Al-Wazzan thanked the Swedish minister for the participation of his government in the UN emergency force and its support for Lebanon.

CORRECTION TO SALIM ON TALKS WITH HUSAYN, PYM, KHADDAM

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Salim on Talks With King Husayn, Pym, Khaddam," published in the 21 March Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, G 5, fifth paragraph, line four:

...peace to the area. Peace in Lebanon is the key...(correcting "London" to read "Lebanon")

SOVIET DELEGATION TOURS AL-QUNAYTIRAH 22 MAR

JN221300 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium led by Temirbek Kosyoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium, this morning made a familiarization visit to the liberated township of Al-Qunaytirah. The Soviet delegation was accompanied by People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi, a number of the assembly members, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Following a brief tour of the town, during which the delegation saw for itself the bestial destruction, the delegation was briefed in detail on the province and its direct confrontation of the enemy. The governor, who gave the briefing, outlined the people's determination and that of the entire Syrian people, led by Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, to proceed with their steadfastness and struggle until liberation. The governor spoke highly of the friendly Soviet Union's stands that support Syria's just struggle. He also paid tribute to the strong militant relations that bind the Syrian and Soviet peoples.

Koshoyev, for his part, said that he was deeply touched with what he has seen of the barbaric criminal acts that were committed by the new fascists represented by racist Zionists and Israel. He asserted that these acts will only motivate the Arab people to continue their struggle and intensify the militant cohesion among all the progressive and freedom forces in the world and beef up the struggle against imperialsim, Zionism, and all enemies of mankind. He stressed that the Arab people in Syria are not alone in waging the struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The USSR is firmly and resolutely siding with this just struggle for the sake of the Syrian people's freedom and independence and for liberating their usurped land and regaining the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to determine their own future and build their own state.

Khaddam Receives Soviet Delegation

JN221644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] This afternoon, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium led by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet.

Present at the meeting were Dr Muhsin Bilal, head of the foreign and Arab relations desk at the People's Assembly; Jabr al-Kafri, director of East European affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

The two sides reviewed the current international state of affairs, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Report on USSR-Syrian Talks

JN221957 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The first round of talks was held tonight between the People's Assembly delegation led by Speaker Rahmud az-Zu'bi and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet. Vladimir Ivanovich Yukhin, the USSR ambassador in Damascus, was also present.

The talks dealt with the parliamentary relations between the USSR Presidium and the People's Assembly, their activities on various local and international levels, the role they play in the fields of legislation and people's supervision, and the tasks of their various committees and organs.

The talks also dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the world.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi explained in detail the events taking place in the Arab region and the designs of the U.S. imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary forces against the Arab liberation movement and the steadfastness of Syria in the face of the Israeli aggression and expansionist plans to contain the region and usurp its various wealths. Az-Zu'bi pointed out the struggle waged by Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, for liberation and construction. He also spoke about the achievements of Syria on all levels, especially after the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. Az-Zu'bi stressed that despite the difficult circumstances of the Arab region in general and Syria in particular, the Syrian Arab people led by their wise and courageous leadership, are determined to continue their militant march. They are confident they will achieve victory depending on their intrinsic powers and the support of the Arab masses and the liberation movements in the world, foremost among which is the socialist group led by the friendly USSR. Az-Zu'bi praised the positions of the USSR which support the Arab right, saying that our people highly appreciate these stands which prove the profound historical friendship between the Arab people and the people of the USSR. Az-Zu'bi also praised the Syrian-USSR friendship and the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two peoples and parties. He also greeted the two leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Yuriy Andropov.

TISHRIN ON AIR DEFENSE BUILDUP ALLEGATIONS

PM221507 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Mar 83 p 8

[Usamah Da'bul article: "Our Answer to Misrepresentations"]

[Excerpt] The CIA-linked propaganda circles are once again spreading allegations about Syria's air defense installations through "reports" that show great skill in the art of fabrication and falsification.

The "report" circulated by AP yesterday containing "information" regarding those installations, can be described as false at the very least, although it is a well written and well-contrived story.

The report, however, does not specify the source of information or say how the information was obtained from what it called "diplomatic and military experts." Rather, the "report" gives the impression that those "experts" deliberately leak such information so Syria will appear to have committed a serious action over which the United States and Israel cannot remain silent.

The essence and objective of this "information" is no different from previous information circulated with the intention of imprinting this picture on the mind of world opinion -- a picture showing the "gravity" of the Syrian air defense weapons. The purpose is to justify a U.S.-Israeli aggression plan against Syria, particularly in view of the fact that this "information" came a few days after the allegations by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger insinuating that there is a Soviet military presence which Syria is trying to consolidate in order to facilitate its penetration of the area.

These allegations came following threats by Zionist war Minister Arens after his meeting with Reagan, which means that U.S.-Israeli circles are engaged in a psychological buildup aimed at preparing for aggression, and that everyone in those circles is actively justifying aggression and presuming its results in accordance with the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement.

The planned aggression against Syria is the second clause of that agreement, the first being the invasion of Lebanon. Leader President al-Asad referred to this at the Seventh Nonaligned Summit when he said: "The Americans approved the invasion of Lebanon. Like the Israelis, they wanted that invasion to be the beginning of a major turning point and a new course in the history of the area through which they could achieve much of the expansion, domination, and repression of which they are dreaming. They also wanted to strike at Syria so afterward they would have liquidated the Palestinian problem and imposed their domination on the area."

But Syria is not what its Zionist enemies and their American supporters imagine. Syria stands firm and openly declares that it is building up its defense capability in order to protect its people against dangers, deter aggression, frustrate Zionist expansion plans, and thwart the U.S. imperialists' objectives of domination and hegemony.

TISHRIN ON HABIB'S MISSION, WITHDRAWALS

JN230810 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Mar 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Security of Syria and Lebanon," TISHRIN writes: U.S. political circles are trying to spread rumors on what is taking place behind the scenes, such as the contacts Philip Habib is conducting through his shuttling between Lebanon and the Zionist entity. One rumor is that an agreement over the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanon is imminent and that Israel has emerged, through peripheral consultations, convinced that it should cede some of its demands and conditions in terms of security arrangements in southern Lebanon and regarding normalization of relations between Israel and Lebanon.

Continuing its editorial TISHRIN says that U.S. circles are utilizing the outcome of the meetings that took place separately in Washington last week between U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and the Lebanese and Zionist foreign ministers. It has been disclosed that new ideas were raised during these meetings and that the guidelines and principles of these ideas were approved by Lebanon and Israel. It has also been disclosed that Philip Habib's present mission is devoted to settling matters over which disputes might emerge during the current negotiations. TISHRIN asserts: We must point out here that there are established points of agreement between the joint political stands of both the United States and Israel. The first point is that even if an agreement is reached on the so-called withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, Israel would continue to insist on keeping a direct military precence in Lebanon. Moreover, the United States supports this Israeli stand and this has irrefutably been confirmed by Shamir's statement prior to his departure from Washington when he said that President Reagan does not consider the limited Israeli military presence in Lebanon as occupation.

The second point stipulates that the United States should use Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the massacres in Sabra and Shatila as a pretext to consolidate its presence in Lebanon.

TISHRIN goes on to say that these two established points of agreement show there is a U.S.-Israeli presence in Lebanon and nobody can tell when it will end. However, all questions regarding this issue boil down to one issue: How the two aggressors can consolidate and prolong this precence, and develop and extend the sphere of this presence.

The U.S.-Israeli military presence in Lebanon, whether in its present shape or in the shape both sides are trying to achieve through an agreement with Lebanon, is a direct outcome of the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Hence, and according to this reality, the existing conflict in the area may develop into a grave one due to the strategic nature which might emerge from the agreement the United States is trying to wrest by bringing pressure to bear on Lebanon through the Israeli invasion. The dangers inherent in the U.S.-Israeli military presence in Lebanon go beyond Lebanon's territory and imperil the entire Arab area. Syria and its strategic friends, headed by the Soviet Union, would never remain idle vis-a-vis such a development.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Syria warns against the impact of concluding an agreement which is liable to jeopardize its national security or undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, or to bring about the U.S.-Israeli hegemony over the region in the long run.

Syria believes that the ideal solution to the Lebanese situation rests in the evacuation of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and in leaving the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian sides to tackle their affairs in accordance with the agreements signed among them, away from U.S. and Israeli interference. Syria, on the other hand, will agree to anything fraternal Lebanon would accept, provided this would safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and would fend off the dangers menacing Syria's security and the security of the entire Arab nation.

IRANIAN TOURISTS CAUSE AIRPORT DISTURBANCES

PM230841 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Louis Faris report: "Tourist Agreement Between Syria and Iran Turns Into Political Crisis"]

[Excerpts] Damascus -- A touristic-political crisis has broken out between Syria and Iran because of the behavior of Iranian tourists who, disregarding the purpose of their visit, indulged in political actions that led to clashes and fistfighting between them and Syrian security men.

The tourist agreement between Syria and Iran has turned into a political crisis that could cause far-reaching repercussions if recent events are repeated in the future.

The number of Iranian tourists who visited Syria during the last 6 weeks under the recent tourist agreement signed between Damascus and Tehran was more than 6,000, according to the official Syrian news agency, SANA.

The agency said that an ad-hoc Syrian committee was set up during the weekend to organize a tour for more than 1,000 Iranian visitors on the occasion of the Iranian New Year Nowruz.

But well-informed sources and eyewitnesses told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that things are not going well for the Syrian authorities, who have agreed to receive 300,000 Iranian tourists during 1983. When the Iranian tourists arrived at Damascus airport, the airport authorities were surprised by the Iranian tourists, both men and women in their traditional dress, producing hundreds of posters of Khomeyni's picture and "Islamic revolution" slogans and sticking them on the walls of the new airport whose construction and decoration cost millions of dollars and was inaugurated only last month.

The Syrian officials were angry and tried to stop the Iranians from ruining the airport walls. In certain cases, the situation developed into heated arguments and fistfights.

The authorities distributed the Iranian tourists to various hotels but some of them refused to stay in the rooms allocated to them unless the hotel management closed down the night clubs. In one of the hotels, a crisis broke out forcing the Syrian authorities to transport the tourists in army trucks to other hotels.

In fact, the Iranian tourists, instead of buying Syrian souvenirs and goods, wanted to sell carpets and jewelry which apparently they were able to smuggle from Iran.

By coincidence, last Thursday a group of Iranian tourists saw former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn, who were touring Damascus' old streets. The Iranians, waving their arms, shouted "God is great, death to America," but the Syrian security men sought to keep them away from Carter's path.

It is recalled that Carter was President of the United States when the U.S. diplomats were taken hostages in Tehran.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES FORMER EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

JN231312 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] At 1000 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Sa'd ad-Din ash-Shadhili, former Egyptian chief of staff and secretary general of the Egyptian National Front. The talks revolved around the current situation in the region and in the Egyptian arena.

AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON SAID TO BE CLOSE

TA230531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche says that the greater part of the agreement [heskem] with Lebanon has been formulated and the rest will be completed soon. What is being discussed is an agreement to strengthen the Lebanese Army in order to secure the northern border of Israel. Israel, he said, is trying to include in the agreement the movement of civilians and trade as well as a permanent liaison office in Beirut.

Sources in the U.S. Administration confirmed that Israel and Lebanon are very close to reaching an agreement. The evacuation of the IDF will be done gradually over a few months, at the same time as the Syrian Army and the PLO people. The Americans say Israel gave up its demand for a presence in southern Lebanon and agreed to put the supervision over security arrangements in the hands of the Lebanese Army and the UN force. Israel's demand to incorporate Haddad's men in the Lebanese Army and to put the responsibility for the patrols in southern Lebanon in their hands was accepted.

More Kimche Remarks

TA230728 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The Foreign Ministry director general announced yesterday in London that an agreement with Lebanon is close at hand. Saudi Arabia, the director general revealed, promised the United States that it would influence Syria to evacuate Lebanon. Yosi Melman reports from the English capital:

[Begin recording] [Melman] Foreign Ministry Director General Kimche revealed that Israel and Lebanon have already formulated the greater part of the agreement's [heskem] draft, but according to him there is a growing danger that Syria and the PLO, encouraged by the Soviet Union, will try to damage the chances of reaching an agreement [heskem] and will refuse to move their forces backward, if and when Israel and Lebanon reach an agreement [sikum] about this.

[Kimche] We are progressing nicely now. We still have, mainly, the problem of the security arrangements in the south. On this subject we still have a few difficult problems but we will overcome them.

[Melman] In your lecture [in London] you spoke of a possibility that the Soviet Union will put obstacles, via Syria, in the path of reaching an arrangement [hesder] at this stage in Lebanon. Is it possible that this estimate of yours means in fact an end to any chance for an arrangement [hesder] in Lebanon?

[Kimche] We of course do not know what the intention of Syria or the Soviet Union are. On our part, we will do everything in order to reach an arrangement [heskem] to enable the evacuation of all foreign forces. What the Syrians and the Soviets will do we still do not know. [end recording]

LEBANON PROPOSES JOINT ANTITERRORIST ACTIVITY

TA221912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Lebanon has offered Israel cooperation between the two countries' intelligence services as part of the security arrangements that would become effective after the withdrawal of foreign forces to prevent terrorists from penetrating southern Lebanon. This was reported by an authoritative Lebanese source quoted by the Voice of Lebanon radio station.

According to the source, broad understanding [haskama] has been reached between Israel and Lebanon regarding the future security arrangements, and the only bone of contention at present is Israel's demand that IDF patrols be allowed to search southern Lebanon even after the force withdrawals. The source added that in the talks with envoy Habib, Lebanon also suggested stationing three Lebanese Army brigades in southern Lebanon as a measure to combat the penetration of terrorists.

This was publicized after Habib conferred with President al-Jumayyil in Beirut. According to Lebanese sources, Israel is demanding limiting the UN role in southern Lebanon and granting a clear and legal status to Major Haddad's forces.

U.S. SENDING ARMY SPECIALISTS, AID TO LEBANON

TA221916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The United States has sent 74 army specialists to Lebanon to train the rehabilitating Lebanese Army in the use of U.S. arms to be supplied to it. This was disclosed both in Washington and Beirut. Congress is expected to deal with a special allocation to help Lebanon in the next few days, and it is expected to stand at more than $250 million. The Lebanese Army is said to be given the job of supervising security in Lebanon following the withdrawal of the foreign forces. It was reported yesterday that a special congressional survey has shown that the Lebanese Army is incapable of undertaking this mission.

Further Report

TA221109 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] The United States will not have any presence in the security buffer zone in southern Lebanon after the IDF withdraws. This has been determined in senior-level contacts in Israel and the United States. This decision is in accordance with the Israeli attitude that rejects any international involvement in southern Lebanon, including UNIFIL and the multinational force.

Contrary to reports in the United States, which Jerusalem thinks are slanted by Washington, the United States will not send military forces or advisers to southern Lebanon.

Israel and the United States are still divided on the question of the status of UNIFIL in the buffer zone.

FIVE IDF SOLDIERS WOUNDED BY MINES IN LEBANON

TA221714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Five IDF soldiers were wounded near the Lebanese village of Kafr Nabrakh, having hit shoe mines planted on an access road leading to a building they were about to search. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. All of them were taken to the hospital and one of them has already been discharged.

Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that this was a dirt road and that the two soldiers walking ahead of the others were the first to hit the mines. A soldier who tried to help the two wounded soldiers moved sideways a bit and hit another mine. A rescue force was immediately called and made its way toward the wounded very cautiously, but one of the rescuers slid in the mud and fell on still another mine. The fifth soldier was hit by shrapnel.

Our military correspondent says that the IDF officers in that sector believe that the mines were planted by the Christian owner of that building before he deserted his house, fearing looting by the Druze. They believe this is not an anti-IDF act.

PLO WON'T ACCEPT HUSAYN IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

JN211154 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Salah Khalaf, called Abu Iyad, a ranking PLO official, has stated that the PLO will not authorize King Husayn of Jordan to join the peace negotiations with Israel, on behalf of the Palestinians. In an interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN published today, Salah Khalaf explained that King Husayn can go ahead and hold negotiations with Israel in accordance with the Fes summit resolution which deals with the Middle East, but not in accordance with President Reagan's plan, which he described as a Zionist plan.

REAGAN REPLIES TO NAVON'S REQUEST ON POW'S

TA221953 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1945 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 22 Mar (ITIM) -- The Government of the United States has made every effort, and will continue to do so, to get the Israeli prisoners released, U.S. President Ronald Reagan promised in a letter he sent [former] President Yitzhaq Navon in response to the latter's approach on the prisoners, submitted during his visit to the United States in January.

In his letter, Reagan also detailed all the contacts that have so far taken place between U.S. representatives and the Syrian Government toward the release of the prisoners.

MORE ON RELEASE OF WAR DATA TO U.S.

TA211748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to transfer to the United States the lessons of the Lebanon war without asking anything in exchange. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Israel is sure that the United States will respect its interests and not relay the information to foreign hands without consulting with it. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Tal] The decision to share the information -- the war lessons -- was made as a good-will gesture and part of an effort visible recently to improve the atmosphere between Israel and the United States. However, one cannot rule out the possibility that what accelerated the decision to transfer the war lessons without asking for a quid pro quo was the recognition here that the information was being leaked anyway. In this way, Israel was liable to soon find itself in a situation in which the Americans would possess 90 percent if not all, of the information, while Israel would not gain a single reciprocal gesture from the Americans.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens convened the military correspondents and representatives of the world media, with strong emphasis on the Americans, and declared that in October 1982 his predecessor Sharon sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, inviting the United States to take part in studying the war data. In November, a delegation came here and a draft agreement was signed. Since then, discussions have been held for 4 months on ratifying that agreement.

Arens said that Israel believes that the information it possesses is of great value to the United States and that its transfer will contribute to improving security and other relations.

He does not say what will become of the F-16 fighters, the supply of which the United States has suspended, or the cluster bombs it has stopped sending us, or the aid funds it refuses to allow Israel to convert into shekels for the benefit of the Lavi aircraft project. Neither does he say if Israel has been promised that the United States will share with it the conclusions the Americans draw from the war lessons transferred to them.

The decision to transfer the information to the Americans may lead to the thawing of the sales, but then again it may not. To this question there is no answer. But one thing is clear: The policy followed during the negotiations when Ari'el Sharon was defense minister was unsuccessful. The Americans did not succumb to pressure and the information was slowly leaked. We should note that involved is mainly information on the capacity of the modern Soviet T-72 tank, on the technology and tactics that made possible knocking out the Soviet missiles in Syria, on the downing of modern Soviet aircraft, and on the Israeli tank's capabilities with respect to gunnery, its defenses, and its ability to withstand enemy fire.

RENEWAL OF U.S. ARMS SALES REPORTED

TA230548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The Reagan administration is renewing arms sales to Israel, a day after Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced that the IDF has decided to hand the information it collected and the lessons it learned from the war in Lebanon over to the Americans.

The Pentagon spokesman said that at this stage the Congress has been given an announcement on the intention to sell Israel 200 air-to-air Sidewinder missiles for $16 million. This is the first arms deal with Israel since the war. The spokesman stressed that this is being done within the framework of the administration's long-range policy to aid Israel in acquiring defensive arms for secure borders.

A few hours previously, the Pentagon spokesman came out with the announcement that the decision of Minister Arens to give Washington the intelligence information accumulated during the Lebanon war greatly improves the relations between the two countries. All the same, he denied rumors that the administration had already decided to renew the supply of F-16 planes to Israel, which was stopped after the invasion of Lebanon.

'AL HAMISHMAR ON IMPROVED U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

TA201030 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 83 p 3

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Ze'e' Blitzer: "Sharon Has Gone -- The Atmosphere Has Improved"]

[Excerpts] U.S.-Israeli relations received a strong injection of encouragement during Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington. Compared with the situation only a month ago, relations have improved unrecognizably. U.S. and Israeli officials here have agreed that the more positive atmosphere now prevailing in Washington-Jerusalem relations can be considered to be the first result of Ari'el Sharon's removal from the Defense Ministry and the appointment of Moshe Arens in his place. As Israeli ambassador to the United States over the last year, Arens became more sensitive to the importance of the pact between Israel and the United States. He also learned to value the role played by a man's character in drawing up policy.

Arens' approach to the United States, authoritative sources here have confirmed, is very different from that of Sharon.

The previous defense minister gave the impression of making attempts to undermine U.S.-Israeli relations and angered U.S. officials. Sharon tried again and again to bypass the United States, which acted as mediator in the negotiations with Lebanon. He wanted to make deals with the Lebanese directly. But it turned out that this was impossible.

Arens understood that it would be impossible to reach an agreement without active U.S. involvement. It was essential for him that Israel should maintain a detailed dialogue with the Americans. The key word was "coordination." One of the main problems, in the opinion of Arens and other Israeli officials, was that special U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib had lost his credibility in Israel. He gave the impression in Jerusalem that he had a too one-sided leaning toward Lebanon. Arens, who had earlier developed excellent working relations with Secretary of State George Shultz, thought it would be helpful to bypass Habib and appeal directly to the administration leaders.

According to U.S. officials, it is emerging that the impression left by Sharon was to a great extent erased. However, it is important to recall, they add, that a genuine agreement in Lebanon could greatly improve the relations between Israel and the United States.

One of the reasons for this originates in the strong desire of the Reagan administration to make some sort of achievement in the field of foreign policy. In fact, it has not made such an achievement since it took over more than 2 years ago.

Political officials in the White House are already looking to the presidential election campaign next year. They are already assuming that Reagan will try for reelection. Reviewing what is occurring in the world, the U.S. policymakers are reaching the conclusion that for the moment it is only in the Middle East that they be able to achieve a breakthrough in the field of foreign policy; first in Lebanon and perhaps, after that, broader peace talks, if King Husayn agrees to be involved in the developments. This latter possibility may be too ambitious, but the Americans have the feeling that they have until the fall to try to actualize it.

A genuine treaty for arms supervision between the Soviets and the Americans does not appear to be on this year's horizon. The situation in Central America is as bad as it could be and continues to deteriorate from day to day. Relations between the United States and its allies in Western Europe are strained because of the movement to freeze nuclear arms and other matters concerned with the deployment of the Pershing missiles on the continent. Washington and Tokyo are facing a trade war that could be most severe.

It is only in the Middle East then that the administration sees any chance of winning points in public opinion polls. Israeli officials feel that Reagan and his political aides would be most grateful for such a political victory.

It may be assumed that the administration would favor Israel in the course of the progress, perhaps by releasing the F-16's and the money and technology required to develop the new generation of the Israeli Lavi fighter plane. Apart from this, there are many Israeli requests awaiting approval.

Everything, of course, depends on the question of how Israel plays its cards in the future. If Arens is given the green light to act, the relations between the United States and Israel may improve dramatically within the next few weeks.

MA'ARIV ON IDF-MARINE 'MISUNDERSTANDINGS'

TA221455 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 83 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Truce"]

[Text] Ambassador Philip Habib has received a full mandate from U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to settle the conflict between the Marine commander and the IDF in Lebanon.

Weinberger himself told Jewish activists he met recently that President Reagan instructed him to improve relations with the U.S. Jewish community. These relations have been strained recently because of Weinberger's groundless accusations that the IDF is harassing the U.S. Marines in Lebanon.

U.S. public opinion in general, and that of the Jews in particular, has refused "to buy" these stories and have not believed these accusations since it is hard to conceive that the Israelis would harm the U.S. Marines. The huge disparity between the great publicity given the verbal confrontations arising from misunderstandings at roadblocks and the silence on the attacks against the Marines by a terrorist organization of Khomeyni's followers made those doing the publicizing suspect of political intentions to harm Israel.

Therefore, Weinberger authorized Ambassadors Habib and Lewis to contact Defense Minister Moshe Arens in order to ease the tension. Accordingly, an effort was made yesterday to set procedures for preventing confrontations, even verbal ones, between the Marines and IDF soldiers in Lebanon.

The defense minister made a gesture of his own in a different sphere before the reconciliation talk on the Marines. He announced the transfer of all the military information that had been gleaned from the war in Lebanon to the United States, without demanding that Secretary of Defense Weinberger ratify the agreement signed in outline by a U.S. Defense Department envoy in November.

Weinberger had refused to ratify the agreement on the information exchange, mainly because of his opposition to calling the war in Lebanon the Peace for Galilee war. For this reason he delayed approving the agreement for many months. And when his aides, testifying in congressional committees, were pressed by senators and congressmen why the United States does not receive the vital information from the Lebanon war lessons, they would answer that they were getting the information.

In theory, there was no need for a new agreement on the exchange of information between Israel and the United States since such an exchange has existed since the days of the 6-day war and the Yom Kippur war. The Americans benefited from the military lessons the IDF gleaned from its wars, and these lessons were even applied in developing sophisticated U.S. arms. This time Israel wanted to ensure that these lessons would not be relayed to states hostile to Israel, and in fact it was about this that the outline agreement was signed. However, Weinberger imposed a "veto" on this explicit clause in the agreement.

The defense minister's unilateral declaration on the transfer of the important military information to the United States without any preconditions frees Weinberger from the pressures of the senators and congressmen who insistently demanded that he not be stubborn and activate the agreement with Israel. This pressure contributed to the tense atmosphere between the Pentagon and the Israeli defense system, the signs of which were also visible in the groundless statements by the Marine commander in Lebanon.

An attempt is now being made by both sides to achieve a truce. Israel is transferring the data from the Lebanon war to the United States, hoping and believing that the United States will reciprocate by returning information and equipment improved on the basis of the Lebanon war lessons.

This truce must certainly welcomed, no less than Presient Reagan's advice to his defense minister to improve relations with the U.S. Jewish community should also be welcomed. However, the difficulties lurking on the path of this reconciliation should not be ignored.

First, the more the Marines get fed up of being in Lebanon and being targets for Arab terrorist organizations, the more they will try to blame us, since we caused them to get entangled in Lebanon.

Second, when the administration wants the Jewish community not to raise an outcry in view of the U.S. plans to arm the Arab armies, new tension is likely to be created.

The administration wants Israel to influence U.S. Jewry not to interfere with its supplying the Arab armies sophisticated arms, and the foreign minister heard clear words on this matter during his last visit to Washington. The truce that has been achieved is liable to face a serious test then.

HERZOG COMMENTS ON ELECTION AS PRESIDENT

TA221241 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Interview with President-elect Hayim Herzog by Jack Katzenell -- in Knesset "soon after the result was announced"]

[Text] [Question] President-elect Hayim Herzog, how does it feel to be elected to the highest office in the land?

[Answer] It feels very good indeed. One ran for it, one hoped one would win, and when one does succeed, it's... the feeling is a good one.

[Question] What do you see before you? What kind of a president do you intend to be?

[Answer] I've no idea. I must learn, first of all, what it's all about. I don't want to presume that I understand the office in any way. It will take time. I'll learn and then I'll decide.

[Question] How would you characterize your victory over the government's own candidate?

[Answer] I would -- I don't think it's a victory over the government or it's a victory for any party. No, it's just, it's a victory for the Knesset. The legislator intended the elections for president to be divorced from the political divisions in the country and the legislators carried out the intention of the legislature.

[Question] You don't see it as a personal defeat for the government and specifically Mr Begin?

[Answer] No, I don't. I don't. I've just spoken to Mr Begin. He has congratulated me and I don't see it as that. I see it as the Knesset exercising its rights on a personal basis.

[Question] What role do you think that you will take in the present situation of the country with the divisions between the political divisions and the ethnic divisions which are plaguing the country now?

[Answer] I shall do my very best to bridge them and try to help to bring about unity within the country.

[Question] Do you see the president as taking a hand in controversial issues such as President Navon did in the case of the committee of inquiry?

[Answer] I will cross bridges when I reach them.

On Knesset Power Struggle

TA221534 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] President-elect Hayim Herzog says that the results of the elections in the Knesset today cannot be viewed as showing the real balance of power between the coalition and the opposition. The legislator wanted the president of the country to be elected on a personal basis and confidentially in order to take the issue out of the political realm, and the Knesset acted accordingly. Mr Herzog said that he will work toward bridging the gaps in society, to nurture an atmosphere of tolerange and brotherhood, and will try to bring the Diaspora children closer to Israel. He went on to note that he learned Arabic at home, and taught his children the same. Herzog stressed that his attitude to the country's Arab citizens will be the same as the attitude of his predecessor, Yitzhaq Navon.

COALITION CHAIRMAN RESIGNS OVER ELECTIONS

TA221533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The chairman of the Herut faction in the Knesset, MK Roni Millo, resigned from his office as acting coalition chairman. He explained to our correspondent Razi Barqay that he did this after members, who gave him explicit promises, lied with a straight face and elected Hayim Herzog as president in order to damage the coalition. Milo noted that he thinks the Likud should now renew its initiative for earlier elections, following the coalition's defeat in the Knesset. However, he is concerned this will not succeed because the coalition partners will not agree to it.

BEGIN CONSENT ON ELECTION RESULTS, COALITION

Speaks at Faction Meeting

TA222016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin objects to the dissolution of the coalition. Speaking at the Likud faction meeting called following the failure in the presidential election, the prime minister said that those who are suggesting dissolving the coalition should comprehend what this signifies. He congratulated the president-elect and called on his fellow faction members to do the same.

He related that he had only proposed Justice Elon's candidacy after having received a promise by all the coalition components that they would support him. It is true that all the coalition members signed their support for Elon, he said. Still, there are many members of the coalition and life is difficult, the prime minister said. Our correspondent Arye Golan says that some Likud faction members called for the dissolution of the coalition and early elections.

Favors Early Elections

TA221717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that he has no intention of initiating a crisis in the coalition in light of the failure in the Knesset in the presidential election. Our correspondent Razi Barqay has learned that the prime minister told some of his confidants that he still believes the elections should be advanced, but he added that this should be done only with the full agreement of all the coalition components. The Likud faction has convened at the Knesset building to discuss the coalition's failure in the vote and the resignation of the faction chairman, Roni Milo, from the post of acting coalition chairman.

Conflicting Report

TA221438 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin does not regard the election of Hayim Herzog cause enough to dissolve the coalition or to call early elections. This was reported by the prime minister's associates. His media affairs adviser, Uri Porat, told our political correspondent 'Pz Frankel, that Begin has no intention of dealing any further with the presidential election or demand [lidrosh] an investigation or an inquiry to find out the identity of those coalition members who voted for the opposition's presidential candidate, Hyim Herzog.

The prime minister telephoned Herzog this afternoon and congratulated him on his election as president. Immediately after the Knesset vote, Begin said he regretted the fact that the coalition's candidate was not elected, but added that this was the nature of democracy and the nature of a secret ballot.

LABOR CHAIRMAN PERES REACTS TO HERZOG ELECTION

TA221124 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by Shmu'el Stav on 22 March]

[Text] [Question] Shim'on Peres, what is your reaction to the election of Hayim Herzog as the next president?

[Answer] That the suitable man has been elected; that the Knesset has raised itself above political considerations; that the Alignment proposed the right man; and that the office of president will be getting a suitable candidate.

[Question] Were you amazed like many others in the plenum hall?

[Answer] No, I am not one of the Jews who gets amazed.

[Question] Does that mean that you knew in advance that coalition MK's would vote for your candidate?

[Answer] I estimated from the beginning that a suitable candidate could win a suitable majority.

[Question] What is the political significance of Mr Herzog's election?

[Answer] I do not want to exaggerate, but there is no doubt that this is a substantial achievement for the Alignment. As for the coalition, they must draw their own conclusions.

ALGERIAN, TUNISIAN MINISTERS PRAISE RELATIONS

LD201047 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, 20/3/83 (APS) -- Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahami proceeded yesterday with his Tunisian counterpart to the signing of an official report following works of commissions in charge of boundaries demarcation between the two countries.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi in a statement after the signing ceremony said: It is an historic moment, we have just lived, when both Presidents Chadli and Bourguiba signed the agreement demarking boundaries between Tunisia and Algeria.

I would like, he added, on behalf of President Chadli Bendjedid to express all my thanks to the Tunisian people and its leaders for their very welcome and their outstanding hospitality.

Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi said also: We came to Tunisia to express to our Tunisian brother people our sentiments of friendship and esteem.

We came, he added, with the sincere intent to establish solid bridges that will consolidate links between the two countries. Our objective is to strengthen relations in all fields. We are here to express our will to edify the big Arab Maghreb, he said adding: We hope that good sense will prevail among all leaders of the region in order to find a lasting solution to the Saharan problem that will facilitate the setting up of a unified Arab Maghreb.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi commenting on the signing of the Algerian-Tunisian agreement underlined the desire of peoples of the region to live in an ambiance of fraternity and concord.

We would like to see this agreement, he said, opening the way towards an interpenetration between our peoples and new perspectives for the future of the unified Arab Maghreb work achieved by Algeria and Tunisia, he told the press, should serve as an example for other wider action.

ALGERIA

CHADLI SENDS SPECIAL ENVOYS TO NEIGHBORING STATES

LD221209 Algiers APS in English 1037 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Algiers, 23/3/83 (APS) -- A statement of the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry commenting on results of President Chadli's visit to Tunisia reaffirmed Algeria's determination to intensify bilateral cooperation and contribute in putting a solid ground to relations of a positive good neighbourliness with all countries in the region.

It is in order to confirm this will and its responsibility to make the region an area of cooperation and solidarity prosperity that Algeria undertakes to intensify consultations with all neighbors.

President Chadli has dispatched special emissaries to presidents of Mauritania, Morocco, Mali And Niger.

LIBYA

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONGRESS MEETS IN 1983 SESSION

LD201510 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 6, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress commenced the proceedings of its first session for 1983 yesterday evening at Tripoli's Al-Shati hotel.

In a speech, the general secretary of the congress Mr Omar Hamidi said the current session gains special importance as it is being held at a time when the Arab nation is facing dangerous conditions represented by the capitulation of Arab regimes. He said the Arab political system has signed the document of its historic downfall, declared the bankruptcy of regionalism and capitulated openly to the historic enemy of the Arab nation that now threatens the nationalist existence of this nation.

The current session is expected to study the Arab and international political outlooks, implement the resolutions of the Arab opposition movement's, conference, study the implementation of the secretariat's Arab and international programmes and discuss matters of developing the institutions of the Arab People's Congress in accordance with its charter and basic rules.

Issues Political Statement

LD23046 Tripoli JANA in English 1813 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada in Thani 8, Mar 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The permament secretariat of the Arab People's Congress has concluded its first session of 1983 held in Tripoli between 19-22 March.

A political statement was issued which dealt with the various matters of discussion. The statement pointed out that the Zionist invasion of Lebanon with all its results form the basic image of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary onslaught against the Arab world towards achieving the set targets in crushing the Palestinian resistance militarily and politically, strike at the Lebanese national movement, make Lebanon the second Arab country after Egypt to enter the Camp David accords and isolate and weaken Syria to facilitate the implementation of this conspiracy in the Arab region.

The statement condemned the current negotiations between the Lebanese Government and the Zionist enemy with the participation of the U.S. Administration, pointing out that these negotiations reflect the Arab deteriorating situation where the Arab regimes watch these negotiations as normal and the U.S.A. which was the full partner of the Zionist enemy in its invasion of Lebanon now tries to impose a de facto situation on Lebanon and the whole Arab countries. The statement warned of the Zionist plots which aims at liquidating the Palestinian presence of Lebanese territories.

It repeated the secretariat's rejection of the principle of negotiating with the Zionist enemy, lauding the national resistance waged by the masses in Lebanon and which is escalating daily. It called for supporting and helping this resistance with all political and financial aid possible for driving out the Zionist occupation forces.

The statement urged to exert Arab pressure on the Lebanese regime to prevent it offer concessions to the Zionist enemy relating to Lebanon's sovereignty and Arabism.

The statement denounced the current attempts by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction to employ the Zionist invasion in imposing an American capitulatory settlement of the Palestinian issue based on Reagan's plans and other plans mainly Fes summit plan which crowns the same capitulatory plan.

The statement stressed absolute support for the Palestinian resistance and people through their struggle and acclaimed the unity and consolidation of the Palestinian people on the basis of armed struggle.

It stressed the resolutions of the Arab People's Congress which stipulate the liberation of the whole of occupied Palestine and rejection of all capitulatory solutions and that there will be no reconciliation with, no negotiation with and no recognition of the Zionist enemy as well as no abandonment of the occupied territories and what has been taken by force can only be regained by force. The statement pledged full support for Syria in its confrontation with the Zionist enemy and for all Arab resources in this possible confrontation so that the misgivings and Arab negative aspects are not repeated.

The statement pointed out that the continuation of Syria's steadfastness and helping it to be victorious in any future war will create an important change in the balance of power in the Arab region in favour of the Arab masses and their progressive and nationalist regimes.

It called for exerting genuine efforts to develop and promote the Syrian-Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese alliance and leave aside any obstacles or differences that might have existed.

The statement touched upon the situation in Egypt saying that adherence to Camp David accords is still the main line of policy of the Egyptian regime which is trying to get advantage of the outcome of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon by being active to involve other Arab countries in the process of Camp David accords concentrating on Jordan and Lebanon.

The secretariat expressed its confidence that the Egyptian people which rejected the treason of As-Sadat and executed him will continue resisting his policies through the activities of the Egyptian National Movement which should be supported.

The statement denounced the U.S. terrorist provocations against the Jamahiriyah which took the form of mobilizing the U.S. fleets opposite to the Libyan shores. The statement urged the Arab masses and their popular organizations to take up their responsibilities in consolidating with the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and answer the U.S. intransigence and draw the attention to the designs against the Jamahiriyah which is solidly standing against the U.S. Zionist and reactionary plots. The statement asserted the necessity to escalate the Arab struggle up to the level of the challenges and raise the joint struggle among the Arab nationalist liberation movement factions and their nationalist regimes up to the level of a front capable of repulsing and defeating the enemy.

The statement concluded by stressing the need for releasing the democratic freedoms of the Arab masses so that they express themselves and define their views because in the absence of democracy there it is not possible to create a revival of the masses that might result in a complete change in the political map of the whole region.

The session issued several important resolutions on escalating the struggle of the Arab nation against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction including:

- Media campaign against the Zionist enemy

- Seminar on the American Central Command and the American military presence in the Arab world

- International conference in solidarity with the Lebanese people.

JANA LINKS HASSAN II, CIA WITH DLIMI DEATH

LD192303 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 19 Mar 83

["Why Moroccan King Killed General Dlimi" -- JANA headline]

[Text] Rabat, Jumada 5, March 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- New information implicating King Hassan II directly in the assassination of General Ahmed Dlimi, has been unearthed.

According to this information General Dlimi was killed by the commander of the National Gendarmes Hassan Ben Sliman upon personal orders from the Moroccan king and in his presence. Later a plan was devised to show that Dlimi was killed in a traffic accident.

This information has also uncovered the American role in General Dlimi's assassination. Reports said the CIA director and the U.S. defence secretary informed King Hassan II that an attempted coup was being planned against him and that General Dlimi was to have personally carried out this coup. The reports indicate that the American Administration's information supplied to King Hassan regarding the attempted coup was meant to increase the Moroccan regime's dependence on the American Administration and Morocco's use by the U.S. as the spearhead for implementing American goals in the region.

The death of General Dlimi has opened the way for King Hassan to move on several axes through the American strategy in the region. Reports confirm that the Moroccan king will carry out several measures that will result in basic changes being taken in the army enabling the army to carry out external missions in accordance with American goals.

King Hassan's moves by sending special Moroccan units to protect the heads of several reactionary African regimes are part of the new directions being taken by the Moroccan regime.

On the other hand, the Moroccan king is covering up mounting popular dissatisfaction domestically by attempting to give an appearance of democracy to the so-called Moroccan national reconciliation. In this respect, the Moroccan monarch has recently shown increasing interest in Abderahim Bouabid and taken several steps to facilitate the formation of a party that will act as a basis for the implementation of Hassan's domestic and external goals. Bouabid is adopting Hassan's policy regarding the Palestinian issue, a policy that is based on recognition of the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, Bouabid has already declared his readiness to meet with the leader of the Israeli Labor Party and act as a mediator in direct negotiations between Abu 'Ammar and the Israeli Labour Party.

AL-QADHDHAFI LAUDS SUDANESE NATIONALIST FORCES

NC191036 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has lauded the courageous stand taken by the Sudanese nationalist officers and soldiers with regard to the plots and intrigues concocted by the U.S. Administration and its agents -- in the forefront of which is lackey Numayri -- against the Libyan Arab people.

The Sudanese nationalist officers and soldiers had recently distributed a statement in the barracks of the Sudanese Armed Forces denouncing the U.S. terrorist provocations against the Jamahiriyah and emphasizing that the imperialist onslaught on Libya had been expected because Libya represents the masses that are standing fast against the U.S. imperialist, expansionist interests, because Libya is the vanguard advocating sovereignty, freedom, and the rule of the masses and because the Sudanese masses have believed in the experiment applied in the Jamahiriyah.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ADDRESSES 'ATBARAH POPULAR RALLY 21 MAR

JN221215 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] 'Atbarah, 22 Mar (SUNA) -- Addressing a popular rally here yesterday, President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri reiterated his resoluteness to go ahead with the development process irrespective of circumstances and pressures and despite the world economic crisis. He outlined the various development projects that had been completed and those which are being completed despite the obstacles.

In his speech to the 'Atbarah masses, the president emphasized that work will soon begin on the construction of the Khartoum-'Atbarah road. This road, President Numayri added, will later be linked with other roads, namely the Danaqilah-Halfa and Hayya-Port Sudan roads.

Continuing, President Numayri explained that the establishment of the regional rule with its constitutional and executive institutions is a prelude for promoting regional development and expanding the base of democratic participation. He reaffirmed his commitment before the masses to implement the overall political program as proposed by the Fourth Congress of the Sudanese Socialist Union recently held in Khartoum.

Touching on the plots being hatched by Al-Qadhdhafi against Sudan and the Arab nation at large, President Numayri discussed, in particular, Al-Qadhdhafi's stands on the Palestinian revolution and his demand to the Palestinian fighters to commit suicide, and his ceaseless efforts to disintegrate Arab unity by siding with the Polisario, the secessionist Kurdish movement in Iraq, and with Iran against Iraq thereby undermining Iraq's national unity and territorial integrity.

Reviewing his recent visit to South Korea, President Numayri said that the visit has contributed toward enhancing the Sudanese-Korean relations in the various fields, particularly in the spheres of economic and technical cooperation. He stressed that the visit has produced positive results, which will be manifested during the next few days.

President Numayri, in his address to the mass rally in 'Atbarah, pointed out that only great nations face challenges because success and not failure generates envy. It is, therefore, no coincidence for Al-Qadhdhafi to pile his vileness on Sudan at this stage while the latter is endeavouring to complete the regional institutions, move the development projects into the wide-scale production phase, complete the construction of roads, and construct a strong economic structure for commercial oil investment; and while the role of Sudan, as a peace-advocate and peace-maker, is growing significantly on the regional, Arab, and international levels.

President Numayri said that the northern region has become, as it should be, an exemplary model for Arab integration and not as dictated by the resolutions and conferences [word indistinct] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This integration is unequivocal evidence demonstrating the credibility of the African Continent as called for by the Lagos economic summit.

President Numayri pointed out that the revolution has honored all its commitments and proved that democracy should not be exploited by the minority. Rather, it is the right of every Sudanese citizen to enjoy this democracy. The masses have their say and the authority makes an implements the decisions.

The president of the republic added that the revolution has started applying decentralization as a prelude for handing over power to the people.

SOME SOUTHERN LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED

NC191550 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 19 Mar 83

[By Ignace Dalle]

[Text] Khartoum, March 19 (AFP) -- The central Sudanese authorities have detained the chairman of the southern Sudan Regional Assembly, Dhol Achawil, and the vice-chairman of the southern Executive Council, Mathew Abu, according to reliable sources here.

They said the arrests were linked to the detained men's opposition to administrative reorganisation of the southern region.

Travellers arriving in Khartoum from Juba, the southern capital some 1,000 kms (625 miles) away, spoke of other arrests over the past few weeks, including those of several lawyers.

The central government's announcement early last year that it intended to split the southern region into three provinces raised a storm of protest in the affected area, and the authorities in Khartoum shelved the plan.

The loudest opposition came from the Dinka people, who are the largest single ethnic group in the south but do not form the majority.

Under the reforms the Dinkas would lose much of their power to the other ethnic groups who would be better represented than now.

Relations between southerners and northerners working in the region had deteriorated noticeably in recent weeks, according to reports from the region.

In mid-January, 12 tradesmen from the north and a sultan from the same area were murdered by "armed bandits" at Aryat railway station in Bahr el Ghazal province. Many northerners subsequently requested arms permits and have taken measures to protect themselves.

The monthly government magazine SUDANOW noted that 5,650 people out of a total population of three million were in Sudanese jails, with hundreds more on the run from police. SUDANOW said that the police, which had many illiterate, corrupt, and frustrated members, could not perform its functions effectively.

Letters to the magazine reflected a bitterness on the part of southerners who felt they had been neglected by the Sudanese authorities grappling with the economic crisis, with road and air links in a sorry state, telecommunications practically non-existent, and central government investment at a low level.

The discovery of considerable oil reserves in southern Sudan by the Chevron Oil Company has reawakened hope in the area, but observers commented that if the economic benefits are not fairly distributed, the tension currently simmering could explode.

ANGOLA

APPEALS MADE TO WORLD ORGANIZATIONS FOR HOSTAGES

EA221433 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The national situation is dominated by the kidnapping of a group of Czechoslovak industrial technicians from the Alto Catumbela paper mills. Messages condemning the brutal act of banditry against the Angolan people have come from the international students union, the executive secretary of the antiapartheid movement, and other sectors of public opinion.

Yesterday, for example, the Cuban agency PRENSA LATINA issued a report saying that in Czechoslovakia demarches were continuing for the liberation of the captives.

PRENSA LATINA pointed out that appeals have been made to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the International Red Cross, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement. The appeal to the latter organization was made in a call addressed to the chairman of the movement, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, by the Czechoslovak prime minister. The action is regarded by PRENSA LATINA as the result of South African military pressures and attacks on Angola.

Forces Holding Hostages 'Surrounded'

LD230036 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Based on information from Western diplomatic sources in Geneva, NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL has reported that a UNITA column escorting 64 Czechoslovak and Portuguese hostages has been surrounded about 84 km from Alto de Catumbela. It will be recalled that UNITA announced that if the Angolan Army pursued the column, reprisals might be made against the hostages. At the same time, UNITA called on the Lisbon and Prague Governments to dissuade the Angolan Government from launching any pursuit operation aimed at recovering the captives.

ANGOP SAYS PORTUGAL AIDS 'PUPPET ORGANIZATIONS'

AB171210 Luanda ANGOP in French 1113 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, 17 Mar (ANGOP) -- The Portuguese Government is facilitating the stay of puppet organizations which conspire in Portugal against the People's Republic of Angola and grants visiting visas to leaders of the Angolan puppet groups, according to an ANGOP correspondent in Lisbon.

The heads of state of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe expressed concern over this situation at the summit of Portuguese-speaking countries held in Praia last September.

The presidents also expressed their concern over the attitude of "certain countries with which the five states maintain normal relations of friendship" and which allow their territories to serve as support bases for the development and preparations of subversive and terrorist activities."

The African leaders believed that "tolerating these activities which result in the destruction of human lives as well as property, has become a practice they indulge in with the complicity of our country's aggressors."

UNITA RADIO ON ROLE OF FAPLA AS TRAITORS

MB210906 (Clandestine) Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 18 Mar 83

[UNITA Radio: station commentary]

[Excerpt] In January 1975 the Cuban foreigners began invading our fatherland to plunder it and to massacre its children, the Angolan people. Comrade President Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, the embodiment of the highest patriotism, appealed to all Angolan patriots to defend our fatherland once again in view of the invasion by the Cubans. Comrade President Dr Savimbi called it to the attention of the national conscience of all Angolan children to comply with our patriotic duty and fight against the Soviet-Cuban invader so that we can free our fatherland from abuse and disrespect and fight against the exploitation of Angola's resources and the massacre of its children.

It is the duty of those who respect and love thier fatherland to defend Angola, their fatherland, from the presence of the Cuban mercenaries. The children of Angola who do not defend their fatherland from the Cuban presence are not patriots. Those who join the invader to fight against the patriots, who struggle to save the fatherland -- those are traitors, compatriots of FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] to fight against the Angolan people, who are struggling against the foreigners in order to defend the fatherland and free the people -- that is, to be a traitor.

We in UNITA are patriots. We love our fatherland, Angola. We respect our fatherland, Angola. We are defending our fatherland with arms in our hands because our fatherland has been occupied by Cubans. We, UNITA, are patriots because we cannot stand idly by and see our fatherland being invaded, abused, and scorned. We defend our fatherland. It is a duty and an obligation of all the fatherland's children. This is a noble feeling that we have toward our fatherland.

Do the FAPLA compatriots now see why they are traitors? The FAPLA forces are a few of the children of Angola who do not respect or love their fatherland. They have joined the Cubans, who have invaded the fatherland, and are fighting against the UNITA patriots, who defend the fatherland from the Cuban invasion. Those compatriots who are in FAPLA are traitors and collaborators. They are in the service of the Cubans and are rendering a bad service to their fatherland and its children.

Compatriots of FAPLA, we have raised this issue because we are aware that many of you do not know what it means to be a patriot or a traitor. A traitor is always in a serious situation. There is no country in the world that has been invaded where its children did not defeat the invaders. In those countries, the people have put the invaders on trial and punished them severely. Once defeated, the foreign invaders never take with them those whom they have transformed into traitors. For instance, the Cubans are going to leave Angola. The whole world is exerting pressure on them. When they go, they will not take (fabrinha) with them to Cuba. Perhaps the MPLA rulers and some high-ranking FAPLA officers will run away, because they have money abroad and are known there. However, you, compatriots of FAPLA, will stay here and will be tried as traitors unless you reconsider your situation now. That is why we explain to FAPLA what it means to be a patriot or a traitor. A traitor always has a sad end.

UNITA is willing to welcome all those compatriots who want to be patriots. UNITA fighters have been instructed by the party and by the armed forces leadership to welcome the compatriots from FAPLA. However, UNITA fighters must not forget that the enemy might want to infiltrate among us in view of this invitation. Vigilance must therefore be strengthened.

FAPLA compatriot, to be a patriot is to fight against the foreign occupation and to fight against the Cuban presence. To be a traitor is to join the Cubans, to be a FAPLA member, and to fight against the Angolan people, who are struggling to kick out the invaders and traitors. The struggle triumphs.

COMOROS

COURT IMPOSES JAIL TERM ON TANZANIAN DEFECTORS

SA191725 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] Six Tanzanian servicemen who requested political asylum after crashlanding at Morini airport last Friday [as heard] have been sentenced to one-year jail terms by a Comoran court. The Tanzanians, who crashlanded at the airport in a stolen Tanzanian air force plane, were found guilty of breaking a 3-months old law which regulated entry conditions of foreigners. The Tanzanians had arrived in the country without travel documents or visas and were therefore liable for prosecution. The plane, a Cessna 310, is expected to be given back to Tanzania.

This has been a second time within a year that Tanzanians had sought asylum by hijacking an aircraft.

MALAWI

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES AUSTERITY BUDGET

MB190558 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of finance, Mr Chaziya Phiri, today announced an austerity budget for 1983-84 against the gloomy prospects for the world economy in general, which will be characterized by slow growth in output, worsening unemployment, weak investment [words indistinct], and little progress against inflation.

In his budget statement in the National Assembly in Zomba, Mr Chaziya Phiri, however, explained that the 1983-84 budget is aimed at restoring higher rates of growth to the economy and reducing the deficits in the central government budget and the balance of payments. The minister announced that among the measures introduced by the government to achieve its objectives are new fiscal measures which include a 10 percent increase on (?beer), a 5 percent increase on cigarettes, tobacco, and snuff. There will be a 5 percent (?surcharge) on goods which have not until now affected farmers and a 20 percent to 25 percent increase in charges on luxury goods.

Mr Phiri also announced some increases which will be effective from the 1st April this year. These include an increase in government levy of 4 tambala per liter for petroleum products except paraffin and a fee chargeable for changing of ownership of [words indistinct] vehicles, which will now be uniform, to 25 kwacha. Other items affected by varying increases announced by the minister include tubes and tires, selected and industrial spirits. In this connection, Mr Phiri made a strong appeal and emphasized that those in charge of public funds should ensure that the money allocated to them is properly managed, saying that the government should strengthen its monitoring system of the budget.

Earlier, the minister, reviewing the performance of the economy, told the House that despite the depressed world economic conditions, erractic weather conditions, and external transportation bottlenecks, the overall economy of Malawi (?registered a 3 percent growth in output) in 1982. He said that most of this growth was due to a sizeable increase in output from agriculture, which is the backbone of the country's economy.

Mr Phiri also disclosed that there was a slight decline in imports last year, while exports remained unchanged from the 1981 level. On the development account for 1983-84, the minister said of the 152.5 million kwacha estimated, the bulk has been allocated to agriculture, transportation, education, and forestry and natural resources, in that order of importance. Mr Phiri then predicted a growth in Malawi's economy of more than 3 percent in 1983.

MOZAMBIQUE

RESOLUTIONS ON MACHEL VISITS TO USSR, GDR

MB171424 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Two joint resolutions of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and of the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly were released in Maputo yesterday. The resolutions deal with the recent working and friendship visits made by President Samora Machel to the USSR and the GDR.

The Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly held a joint session on 14 March and realized with satisfaction the presidential visit to the Soviet Union has strengthened the links of fraternal friendship and of socialist solidarity and cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two countries. The resolution on the visit to the Soviet Union adds that the visit gave the opportunity to reaffirm that the struggle of the Mozambique people is part of the socialist community's global fight for peace and socialism. Regarding the Soviet Union, the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly have decided that party and state organs must embark on activities aimed at promoting greater friendship and solidarity between the parties, peoples, and governments of the two countries.

The resolution on the presidential visit to the GDR says that at the joint session of 14 March it was decided that the party and state organs must promote efforts for the further advancement of friendship and solidarity relations between the Frelimo Party and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and between the peoples of Mozambique and the GDR. The Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and the Standing Commission of the People's Assembly considered the strengthening of relations of friendship and solidarity between the parties and peoples of the two countries as an important contribution for the common struggle for peace and socialism.

PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS 18 MAR

EA191556 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Text] A resolution adopted at the Frelimo Party Central Committee's 11th session, which ended in Maputo yesterday, said preparations for the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress were in hand as planned. The document also stated that the draft agenda for the fourth congress had been approved by the party conferences held throughout the country, during the course of which it had been considerably enriched through the debates conducted by militants and the general population.

In its study, the Central Committee concluded that the party had both quantitatively and qualitatively developed and that unity between the party and the people had been consolidated. The Frelimo Party Central Committee also approved its draft report to the fourth congress.

In examining the results of popular debate on the national system of education, it was decided that the system's efficiency must be maintained and human and material resources applied to improve it.

On the subject of the military offensive, the Central Committee hailed the successes achieved in the struggle against armed bandits and stressed the importance of the Nampula meetings in waging a united fight against the banditry conducted by racist South Africa.

In its resolution the Central Committee reaffirmed the Frelimo Party's socialist policy and its policy of peace. It condemned attempts to transform humanity's overriding needs, such as opposition to racism and apartheid, expansionism, the colonial occupation of Namibia, and aggression into a cold war.

On the subject of diplomacy, among other things, the Central Committee commended President Samora Machel's friendly working visits to the USSR and the GDR.

At its 11th session the Central Committee approved the drafts of this year's central state plan and general state budget. In its study, the Central Committee noted that the state plan is adversely affected by national and international economic difficulties. In this respect, the Central Committee concluded that increased efforts must be made in the major sectors of the economy to implement the plan as effectively as possible, so as to obviate negative factors.

The Central Committee stressed that every effort must be made to end famine, particularly by mobilizing potential resources and making concerted and organized efforts in defense and commodity distribution and marketing.

In cognizance of the fact that the implementation of the state plan is part of our class struggle, the Central Committee stressed the need to intensify the offensive against the promoters of economic sabotage and incorrect product distribution.

The Central Committee decided that defense and economy must be closely liaised, inasmuch as the fight against armed bandits goes hand-in-hand with the fight against unarmed bandits.

In its 11th session the Central Committee decreed that 1983, the year of the fourth congress, must be a year of production, and defensive and economic consolidation.

MACHEL SPEECH TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY 21 MARCH

EA221255 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 21 Mar 83

["Text" of speech by Field Marshal Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, at the 11th session of the People's Assembly in Maputo on 21 March -- recorded]

[Text] Deputies, guests, ladies and gentlemen: As we open the 10th [as heard] session of the People's Assembly, we wish warmly to greet the people's honorable representatives assembled here and to say that, as always, it is through their valuable contribution that we hope to arrive at correct decisions in solving our people's problems. Through the members of the diplomatic corps present here, we greet the peoples and governments they represent, hoping that solidarity and friendship will be promoted and deepened between them and the Mozambique people and state. We also hail the guests attending this session. Their participation is a positive tradition, which already (?forms part) of precious lessons and experiences on the exercise of democracy at the level of the highest organ of state power in our country.

Deputies and guests: Since the end of the 10th session of the People's Assembly, events of great importance have taken place in the international and national spheres, which, because of their significance, we must mention at this assembly.

Last September the heads of state of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe met once again. This meeting reaffirmed the tradition of confirming positions adopted during the national liberation struggle and new steps were taken to qualitatively improve the relations between our peoples and states.

At the invitation of the Supreme Soviet, a delegation of People's Assembly deputies visited the USSR in October 1982 for talks and contacts with the Supreme Soviet and with the Soviets and deputies of three republics. The visit contributed toward strengthening relations between the organs of people's power of our respective states.

The demise of Leonid Ilich Breznhev, general secretary of the CPSU and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which occurred last November, evoked great grief and emotion in us. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, beloved son of the Soviet people and distinguished communist leader of international renown, was a great friend of the Mozambique people, a friend of the Frelimo Party and a friend of the People's Republic of Mozambique. During Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's time relations between the two fraternal peoples, states, and parties greatly flourished on a basis of proletarian internationalism. The death of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, an untiring struggler in the cause of peace and the well-being of peoples, was a painful loss to the Soviet people and all peace-loving peoples. We led a delegation to Moscow where we paid our final tribute to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev on behalf of our people, the Frelimo Party, and our government.

During the same period we were honored by the visit of His Excellency Canan Sodindo Banana, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe. This, the first visit by that high-ranking leader of the fraternal Zimbabwean people served to strengthen even further the solidarity and unity linking our two peoples.

Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam made a brief working visit to our country. During his stay we strengthened relations between Socialist Ethiopia and the People's Republic of Mozambique. We hail the strengthening of our relations, and in spite of the fact that Ethiopia is a long distance away and regardless of the immense difficulties facing it, its leaders and people realize and understand the nature of our problems and unequivocally reaffirmed their militant solidarity with the struggle of our people. We were able to express our gratitude to Chairman Mengistu and the Ethiopian people for the substantial material support we have received from them to enhance and strengthen our defense capability.

The visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner, as a special envoy, which was immediately followed by a delegation of U.S. congressmen, enabled us to discuss the main issues facing southern Africa and to analyze relations between our two countries, thus opening up prospects for normalization in this respect.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar visited our country during a tour of several African countries. This visit was extremely positive as it facilitated a better understanding of southern African problems and enabled the secretary general to take a more active part in the process of solving them.

The working visits we have made to the USSR and the GDR deserve particular mention. They constituted lofty and extremely positive landmarks in the relations between our peoples, parties, and governments. Our common attitudes and relations in all fields were positively strengthened and consolidated as a result. [applause]

In a joint statement on the results of these visits, the Political Bureau and the Permanent Commission of the People's Assembly hailed their success and laid down specific guidelines to be followed by the People's Republic of Mozambique Government.

Strengthening relations between the People's Republic of Mozambique and other socialist countries is strategically important for the economic development and the consolidation of socialism in our fatherland. For socialism to be consolidated in Mozambique, socialism must be consolidated throughout the world. [applause]

The Seventh Nonaligned Summit was recently held in New Delhi, capital of the Republic of India. Loyal to its international obligations and to the guiding principles of nonalignment, the People's Republic of Mozambique was present in New Delhi. Besides analyzing the international situation, our main objective was to focus the Nonaligned Movement's attention on the threats and dangers to peace facing the southern region of our continent. We want the peoples and governments of the whole world to analyze the situation in southern Africa in light of the fundamental principles of nonalignment so as to realize what is happening and to take appropriate steps. Our main tasks in New Delhi were to make them identify the aggressor, the warmonger, and the expansionist of our zone, to make them analyze the apartheid system and condemn the Nazism of our epoch. The manner in which it was held and applied itself to the deliberations made the New Delhi summit a great success.

The principles of nonalignment triumphed in New Delhi in face of every maneuver and pressure. Nonalignment's dedication to the struggle for freedom, independence, peace, and progress triumphed. The march against racism, Zionism, the arms race, and imperialism triumphed. The movement emerged strong and ready to pursue the struggle to achieve its fundamental objectives. Between Havana and New Delhi and between the sixth and seventh summits no problem has arisen needing continuous debate to solve. We reaffirmed the same principles; we continue with the same struggle; we consolidated the movement's unity.

Deputies, tension in our region is becoming increasingly exacerbated. The bellicose Pretoria regime has intensifed its campaign to destabilize the independent states of the region in a vain attempt to subject them to its economic and political influence. Mozambique continues to be a target singled out for this campaign. In November 1982, in a clear provocative maneuver and in preparation for large-scale aggression, the Pretoria regime deployed significant military forces along the common border. In December, a South African force penetrated about 9 km into our territory in the Mapulanguene area. Also in December, the Munhava fuel depots in Beira were sabotaged.

Meanwhile, the process of infiltrating armed bandits from South Africa has been intensified. These are organized, supplied, and led by the Pretoria regime, which constantly intensified the process of infiltration. The murderous and destructive wrath of these armed bandits is increasingly assuming the character of a disaster afflicting the people. The complex gamut of these actions, which are programmed from South Africa and executed by South Africans and by agents in the pay of Pretoria constitute a serious threat to the People's Republic of Mozambique's sovereignty and integrity. These actions constitute an undeclared war that threatens peace and stability throughout our region.

In our end-of-the-year message we declared 1983 a year of action on all fronts, in particular as a year of broadening the struggle against armed and unarmed bandits. [applause] Accordingly, on the military front, the main front, we are preparing our forces to make the forest our theater of operations in smashing the armed bandits, in defending the fatherland, and in restoring the people's security. The results of our action on the military front are now beginning to be felt; we have, however, only just begun.

We assessed the situation in Chibuto. In the best tradition of the people's war of national liberation, we went to Chibuto to meet the people. We observed that our army is resolutely performing the task of liquidating armed bandits in defense of the fatherland. [applause] We hail with emotion the action mounted and the successes achieved by our armed forces in Gaza and we reaffirm our determination to pursue this action to reestablish peace, stability, and security throughout our national territory and country. [applause]

The Pretoria regime, which recruits, trains, arms, supplies, and leads these armed bandits, must be confronted by our arms ready primed for firing [words indistinct] [applause] the problems we analyzed at the Chibuto rally -- we feel dutybound to reiterate this here -- are not the problems of Chibuto or Gaza alone; they are the problems of Gaza, Maputo, Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete, and Zambezia. As a matter of fact, they are the problems of the entire Mozambique people. The clear and precise manner in which the population of Gaza placed its finger on the wound, defined the problems, and laid down the solutions, must inspire our actions at all levels, in every province, and in every district. We have said that the question of power is the central issue of the revolution. At this time the central issue is no longer the winning of power, but the effective exercise of the power that we have won.

Deputies and guests, with the aim of creating conditions conducive to peace in the region, we have begun an intensive and sustained diplomatic campaign. The peace-(?seeking) spirit of the dinner we hosted for the heads of diplomatic missions to the People's Republic of Mozambique of the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council indicates the (?perception) of this objective through diplomatic means. At that dinner we analyzed the instability affecting our country socially, politically, and militarily.

The peace-disrupting, bellicose, and destabilizing factor in southern Africa, it should be made crystal-clear, is the Pretoria regime. Yet this regime claims to defend Western civilization by its actions and is regarded as a fundamental ally by some Western countries. It is our duty to make these countries aware of their responsibilities and make them adopt clear positions toward the odious apartheid system and Pretoria's destabilizing actions. These countries must coordinate their efforts to prevent a general war in southern Africa by creating conditions conducive to peace in this disturbed area.

In our bid to bring about peace, we are exploring all the ways that can lead us to it. In this spirit, talks were held between delegations from the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. The danger of a general war originates in South Africa and threatens all the countries of the region, particularly Mozambique. The talks held with the representatives of the South African Government were integral to the antiaggression principle guiding us. They were relevant to the principle of strict respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs. Regimes are not subject to the choices of others. The question of choice lies only in the type of neighborly relations one wishes to maintain. These relations can be relations of war, relations of peaceful coexistence, or relations of goodneighborliness.

We have already defined our attitude to the consequences of a war affecting the entire region. We are convinced that it is in the interests of all states of the region to avoid such a conflict. But to avert such a war, such a general conflict, we must make the aggressor end his aggression. The invader and the occupier must withdraw unconditionally; the destabilizing agent must be prevented from destabilizing. Peace will never come by accepting aggression under conditions laid down by the aggressor. Peace will never come by accepting occupation or the terms of the occupier. Peace will never come by accepting domination and hegemony. The alternative to war is peaceful coexistence. Coexistence and peace are needed by and in the interests of each and every one of the states in the region -- that is to say, coexistence under conditions of absolute freedom, sovereignty, and equality.

Deputies and guests, building the Mozambique nation is a long and complex process, involving all Mozambicans. It is being promoted in every part of the national territory. The Mozambique nation will emerge when we kill the tribe, when we liquidate racism, when the nation covers the entire national territory, and when within cultural diversity we can recognize the culture and personality of Mozambicans. National unity is the corner stone of the entire edifice of the Mozambique nation. We are as we are because we were able to create national unity and to find the means of mobilizing this immense force.

Continuing the work already (?begun) to broaden and deepen our peoples' unity, in December last year we held a party and government meeting with representatives of religious denominations existing in our country. At this meeting we gained a deeper mutual acquaintance. And in spite of the differences we were able to understand one another as Mozambicans. This was possible because we were able to identify what fundamentally unites us: namely, a common fatherland. This patriotism was revealed on the day of voluntary work on 3 February, Mozambique heroes day. That broad, mass participation, from Rovuma to Maputo, clearly indicates the availability and dedication of the Mozambique people. As part of the preparations for the fourth party congress, this example of dedication can be a permanent force of inspiration leading us to the true solutions to many of our problems.

Deputies, at the present session of the People's Assembly we will analyze important issues of national life and we shall make some decisions. At this session, the legislation of the permanent commission of the People's Assembly will be subject to ratification. The national system of education was discussed at the eighth session. After this it was submitted to a broad and mass debate. Now, in the form of a bill, it is being submitted to this session for assessment and decision. We shall examine how the law translates the principles which we approved at this assembly and how it reflects a broad and mass contribution stemming from discussion of the national system of education, and how the system is being implemented.

We are convinced that the profound manner in which the national system of education was drawn up, discussed, and given publicity and the manner in which conditions for its implementation were created is a guarantee that it will contribute decisively to the formation of new generations and toward the creation of a new man.

The state central plan and the bill on the state general budget for 1983 already being implemented will be submitted to this session, so that the assembly may make a decision on them. The plan and the budget are vital tools for ensuring the process of economic development.

Our country is facing immense difficulties in the day-to-day life of the citizens. World economic crisis, programmed action from South Africa through armed gangsters, and natural disasters -- particularly drought -- which are affecting our country, have extremely grave consequences for our economy. The solution to our problems and difficulties must be found through the efforts of the Mozambique workers in developing production and productivity in conditions of maximum austerity in expenditure. The state central plan and the state general budget for 1983 are an attempt to respond to this preoccupation.

Deputies, before holding the current session of the People's Assembly, we recently held the 11th session of the Frelimo Party Central Committee.

The Central Committee evaluated preparations for the fourth party congress and concluded that the programs established have been essentially fulfilled. The Central Committee noted that the successes we are achieving are the result of the dedication and heroism of our people and their lofty patriotic awareness. It is in the difficult conditions of class struggle and of the aggression to which our fatherland is subjected in several districts, and it is under conditions of war that workers, peasants, and soldiers and all the Mozambique workers are carrying out socialist emulation, fulfilling supplementary plans, and improving the people's standard of living. Among these workers we find deputies of the People's Assembly and deputies of local assemblies.

At the 10th session of the People's Assembly we defined our tasks and (?decided what) deputies of people's assemblies at all levels should (?do) to prepare for the fourth congress of the Frelimo party. Today we note with pride the satisfaction with which the deputies assumed these tasks and that they are making an important contribution to the great success of the party congress. We express our warm greetings to them. [applause]

Now that we are in the final phase of preparations for the fourth congress, let us redouble our efforts, let us redouble our initiatives, and let us redouble our sacrifices. At each workplace let us work for the success of the congress by carrying out more and better production. In every home and on every street in our towns and villages, let us work for the success of the congress by increasing our vigilance and by effecting even better organization of our life. At schools let us work for the success of the congress by studying more and by raising academic progress. In the forest let us make a success of the congress by relentlessly punishing the armed bandits.

Deputies and guests, galvanized by the process of preparations for the fourth congress, we are sure that the present session of the People's Assembly will constitute an important contribution toward preparations for the great event of the congress. Each deputy of the People's Assembly will continue to shoulder, with a lofty conscience, the tasks laid down and those with which he will be entrusted at this session. Each deputy of the people's assembly will continue to honor the trust placed in him as long as he is an elected representative of the Mozambique people.

The struggle continues. Independence or death, we shall win. Thank you very much, deputies. [applause]

SOUTH AFRICA

CONCESSIONS REQUESTED BEFORE NAMIBIA TALKS

MB221237 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] South Africa has agreed to attend the forthcoming UN conference on Namibia if the UN is prepared to make certain concessions. Our Pretoria news desk reports the Department of Foreign Affairs as saying this morning that it has received an invitation from the UN to attend the conference. The concessions that are being requested include that all political parties in Namibia be treated on an equal footing and that all references to SWAPO being the only representative of the people of the territory be scrapped.

SWAZILAND

PARLIAMENT TO CLOSE DURING MEETING OF CHIEFS

MB221223 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Our Africa desk reports that chiefs from all over Swaziland have been summoned by the queen regent to attend a special meeting at the Lobamba Royal Kraal tomorrow for a briefing on events leading up to the dismissal of the prime minister, Prince Dlamini. Parliament will not sit in Mbabane tomorrow because of the meeting.

Meanwhile, reports from Mbabane say that a new prime minister is unlikely to be appointed in the near future and that an early general election could be on the cards for Swaziland. The deputy prime minister, Mr Ben Nsibandze, is expected to act as premier until a firm decision is taken or elections are called.

MABANDLA DENIES SEEKING AUDIENCE WITH QUEEN

MB221316 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in English 1130 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Following the Prime Minister Prince Mabandla's removal from office, which was first confirmed in Swaziland Television Broadcasting Corporation's lunchtime news bulletin yesterday, his private secretary, Mr Paul Shabangu, told our reporter today that Prince Mabandla had left the prime minister's residence and that his family were packing his belongings and preparing to vacate the residence. The termination of Prince Mabandla's term of office as prime minister was contained in a GOVERNMENT GAZETTE extraordinary which was printed on Friday.

Asked if any reason had been given for the termination of Prince Mabandla's term of office Mr Shabangu said he thought the reason would probably be given at a meeting of all chiefs who have been summoned to assemble at Lobamba for a meeting tomorrow. Mr Shabangu added that Prince Mabandla did not go down to Lobamba for a possible audience with the queen regent yesterday. Mr Shabangu had earlier told a newsman that Prince Mabandla intended to meet the queen yesterday to hear from her if he had in fact been removed from office.

RELEASED COUNCIL MEMBERS GO TO LOBAMBA

MB221217 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 22 Mar 83 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Liqoqo members Prince Mfanasibili and Chief Mfanawenkhosi Maseko were yesterday released from prison. The charge against them of uttering seditious statements against the police have been dropped.

After their release, they were rushed to Lobamba royal village where they were involved in emotional scenes. Prince Mfanasibili broke down and wept. Standing in the entrance yard to the Royal Kraal he said: "Your Majesty, we have returned. We do not care much about our arrest, but we would like to know who is trying to overthrow the Royal House? Who is responsible for all the confusion here?

"The king has only just died, but already certain people want to change things for their own benefit. Such people should be moved out of this House.

"Just who and where are the owners of this house?"

At this stage, the minister for home affairs, Prince Gabheni took him by the arm and, comforting him, led him to meet Prince Sozisa, Councillor Vusumuzi Bhembe and members of the Liqoqo.

The two Liqoqo members had earlier been refused bail by both a magistrate and the high court. But the attorney general, Mr Patrick Makanza, has since declared that the two men should not be prosecuted. The director of public prosecutions, Mr Absalom Thwala, said yesterday: "The AG did not give consent that we should go ahead with the charges. As a result, we had no choice but to allow the defence to make an application for a warrant to set the free."

Mr Makanza was not available for comment.

At Lobamba, Prince Mfanasibili and Chief Masero met Liqoqo and senior members of the royal family. The meeting went on for about 45 minutes.

ZAMBIA

MULEMBA, SOVIET PARTY OFFICIAL EXCHANGE REMARKS

MB171557 Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Party Secretary-General Humphrey Mulemba yesterday reiterated Zambia's condemnation of the West propping up the racist South African regime, and appealed to the international community to offer more help to liberation movements.

Mr Mulemba described the prevailing situation in southern Africa as "very serious" because of the continued perpetration of apartheid in South Africa and delays in granting Namibia independence.

He said this at Freedom House in Lusaka when the Communist Party delegation from the Soviet Union led by member of the Central Committee, Mr Yuriy Balandin called on him.

Briefing the delegation on the Namibian issue, Mr Mulemba said the Western countries, which have invested heavily in South Africa, were reluctant to expedite implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence.

The linkage of Namibian independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola was part of the Western ploy to further prolong the racists' occupation of Namibia so that whites could continue to exploit black people. "There is no way you can link the independence of Namibia to the independent state of Angola," said Mr Mulemba in reference to the insistence by the West on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from that country. Zambia, he said, would continue to support SWAPO and other liberation movements in southern Africa until oppressed people were free.

The party chief lauded the Soviet Union for consistently supporting the cause of oppressed people in Africa and hoped that such asssistance would continue. Zambia was hopeful that with increased material and moral support from the international community, oppressed people in southern Africa and elsewhere would achieve their freedom quickly.

Mr Mulemba also thanked the Soviet Union for helping Zambia to overcome her manpower problems by offering training opportunities to many Zambians. He said that the party and its government attached great importance to such training programmes because Zambia was a developing country which was badly in need of trained personnel to implement various development projects.

On the existing cordial bilateral ties, he said both countries should nurture their friendship through exchange visits at various levels and other bilateral programmes. He particularly emphasised the importance of consolidating ties between the Soviet Communist Party and UNIP.

In reply Mr Balandin said his country was very conscious of the prevailing situation in southern Africa and would do its best to contribute to positive progress in the region. He added that his delegation had enjoyed the stay in Zambia and was grateful to President Kaunda and the UNIP Central Committee for the invitation.

The Soviet Communist Party leaders held discussions with their Zambian counterparts and it was hoped the regular exchange visits would continue. They leave for home today.

MUNDIA ASSURES WORLD BANK ON OIL INVESTMENT

MB180650 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has assured the World Bank that the government will do all in its power to assure the success of the ongoing oil prospecting exercise being funded by the bank. Mr Mundia said in Lusaka yesterday that the 6.6 million kwacha the bank has invested in the exploration program it wouldn't like to throw away, and Zambia will do everything to ensure the success of the project.

The prime minister was speaking when he received World Bank representative (John Stolsbeck), who is in the country to review the hydrocarbon exploration program following the signing of an agreement last June.

ZIMBABWE

ZAPU FIGURE TO STAND TRIAL FOR TREASON

CA221719 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The high court in Harare has ruled that the former intelligence chief of ZAPU's military wing, ZIPRA, Dumiso Dabengwa, should stand trial for treason and illegal possession of arms of war. The ruling was made today following an application by the defense council for the acquittal of Dabengwa and six other accused. Mr Justice (Spires) acquitted the six others on the treason charge but they are to stand trial on the other charge of illegal possession of arms of war.

MUGABE DENOUNCES S. AFRICAN PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

MB221337 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has called on the Pretoria regime to release leaders of liberation movements in South Africa and negotiate with them. Comrade Mugabe made this remark in a message he sent to the chairman of the United Nations special committee on apartheid to mark the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination, which was observed yesterday. He said the negotiations should be undertaken with a view of establishing a just system of government which guarantees individual freedom and social justice.

The prime minister said in the absence of such an undertaking by the racist regime, free Africa has no alternative but to continue supporting the just struggle of the masses. Comrade Mugabe said the establishment of the President's Council, which gives limited representation to Asians and people of mixed race, is a negation to finding a solution for the southern African problem.

He said Zimbabwe deplores the machinations of the racist doctrine of violence in the Middle East and the unholy alliance it is developing with apartheid. The prime minister said no solution could be reached in the Middle East which did not recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

BBC INTERVIEWS NKOMO ON CURRENT SITUATION

LD220006 London BBC Television Network in English 2010 GMT 21 Mar 83

[From the "Panorama" program; interview with Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZAPU, with BBC television correspondent (Jeremy Paxman) in London -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Nkomo, on reflection, do you think that it was right for you to leave Zimbabwe?

[Answer] I don't think it needs any reflection: It was a question of a threat to my life. I had to leave. I had to be somewhere in order that I am able to try and help in settling the problem that has arisen.

[Question] There is no doubt in your mind that your life was in danger?

[Answer] I don't think there is anybody who is in doubt. After three people having been killed in my house, it was obvious what would have happened if I had remained.

[Question] Where do you believe the threat to your life came from?

[Answer] Well, it came from the 5th Brigade, when they invaded my house and ransacked it and killed three people in the house.

[Question] What is your view of the 5th Brigade?

[Answer] Well, I think that I did say my point when it has been formed: I said to the prime minister that it was a pity that a brigade outside the national army was being formed and I feared that it would be used as a political army -- apart from the national army. It appears it has been used so.

[Question] Many people suggest that it is a tribal army.

[Answer] Well, it could be a tribal army, but in fact not a Mashona tribal army, as some people say it is. Some people believe that because the 5th Brigade is made out of Mashona-speaking young people, therefore its actions are actions of the Mashona against the Matabele. This is a misrepresentation. I don't think it is so.

[Question] There are many people in Matabeleland who believe that when they are confronted by a Mashona section of the army -- they are Matabeles -- that, then, that is a tribal issue.

[Answer] Well, when you are confronted by people who speak a language and they do harm to your life, yes, you do come to wonder whether it is not tribal, and completely Mashona against Matabele. Here I am talking as one who knows that in fact it is not so. It is a mistake for anybody to believe that the Mashona have organized against the Matabele. This is not so.

[Question] If it is not a tribal issue, then what is it?

[Answer] It could be a political issue. As I said at home, to the prime minister, when it was being formed: I said it could be a political party army. And this, possibly, is what it is -- and not tribal, as such. It does not embrace the tribe, the people -- Mashona-speaking people -- as against Matabele.

[Question] How much has your party suffered at the hands of the 5th Brigade?

[Answer] Oh, quite a lot. We have lost quite a number of people, some of them top people in the party. And I almost lost my life myself. You can see how serious it is.

[Question] Many people in Matabeleland, many members of your own party in Matabeleland, have told me that what's really happening is an attempt to decapitate your political organization.

[Answer] Well, it may be so. It may be so, but, again, its a problem. If it is so, then it's a problem we should be looking to and see that that does not happen, because it is not possible for Mr Mugabe or anyone else to decapitate a party like ZAPU just that way -- by using violence. If one wants to have one party, that might be the thing: A one party state. I don't think it would be the right thing to go about it in a violent manner, because you would not win the hearts of the people. If you want that -- if Mugabe wanted that - the best thing to do is to organize -- to win the hearts of the people and show what he can do for them and not to shoot them into submission.

[Question] Do you believe that it is happening as part of Mr Mugabe's policy for a one-party state?

[Answer] I wouldn't say it is, but it may be. It may be that.

[Question] Do you concede that the government did have and does have a continuing security problem in Matabeleland?

[Answer] Well, the unfortunate thing is that the extent of the problem has never been revealed. That is unfortunate. I had tried to suggest to the government that it was important to have an elementary select committee in order to discover the extent of the problem.

[Question] But there is no disputing things like the kidnapping of the tourists, the kidnapping of white farmers, the murdering of white farmers -- four killed only this weekend.

[Answer] It depends who kills them.

[Question] Who do you believe killed them?

[Answer] I don't know. This is what we have got to discover? Who killed and who kidnapped these people. Who killed them.

[Question] The government claims that it is former ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] fighters.

[Answer] Well, former ZIPRA -- not ZIPRA. You see that: The difference between former ZIPRA -- who is responsible for former ZIPRA but government? [sentence as heard] Not ZAPU. See, this is the position.

[Question] The government claims that ZAPU supports the dissidents.

[Answer] No, this is a mistake. If the government believed that -- as I said at home, if the government believes that, the first thing to do is prove that it is so. This is why an enquiry was important: to establish that. But there is nothing established.

[Question] Do you condemn the dissidents?

[Answer] I have condemned them several times at home.

[Question] Do you condemn them now?

[Answer] Of course, yes. I mean, who would not condemn dissidents? The name dissident itself is outside the course and therefore we condemn this (?taboo) thing.

[Question] Why was it that Mr Mugabe dismissed you from government?

[Answer] Oh, no, we're not going to go back and dig in old graves.

[Question] He would claim, I think, that it was because you did not have a full, whole-hearted commitment.

[Answer] Oh, no, I definitely wouldn't think that way: If there was anybody who pulled his weight on that Cabinet, it was me.

[Question] Do you feel, sir, that you still have a part to play in the reconstruction of Zimbabwe?

[Answer] I think so, yes. As long as I am leader of my party, I think I still have a part to play -- even if I were not leader, just as a citizen, I still have or would have an obligation to assist my country to move forward.

[Question] Is there any possibility at this time of an amalgamation between your party and Mr Mugabee's party?

[Answer] Well, again, here it depends on how we go about it. If we go about it seriously, try and discover the ills and so on and how we could remedy those ills, there is nothing impossible on this globe.

[Question] But at a time when what you, yourself, call a party army is attacking and killing supporters of your party -- it must make the possibility of an agreed one-party state rather more remote, doesn't it?

[Answer] No, things have happened on this world: very serious, much more -- possibly much more serious than what has happened. Wars have taken place and people who have gone to war against each other work together today. The last world war: The people who were enemies are today allies. It means people facing the problems and doing everything possible to try and resolve them. I think the people of Zimbabwe are capable of that: of looking back, seeing where they have gone wrong and going back to retrace their steps, if need be, so as to solve the problem of Zimbabwe.

[Question] People are talking about the possibility of civil war in your country.

[Answer] No, I don't think that is correct. It is the people who assume there is a problem between the Mashona and the Matabele -- these are the people who are talking about a civil war. It is problem, a very serious problem, that has arisen in our country. It needs careful handling, it needs patience, it needs objectivity -- that type of thing. I think we need that.

[Question] The problem can't really be solved as long as you are outside the country, can it?

[Answer] Did I say I was coming to stay here permanently? Didn't I say when I first arrived here that I will be here temporarily -- I will be going home? My plans have not changed.